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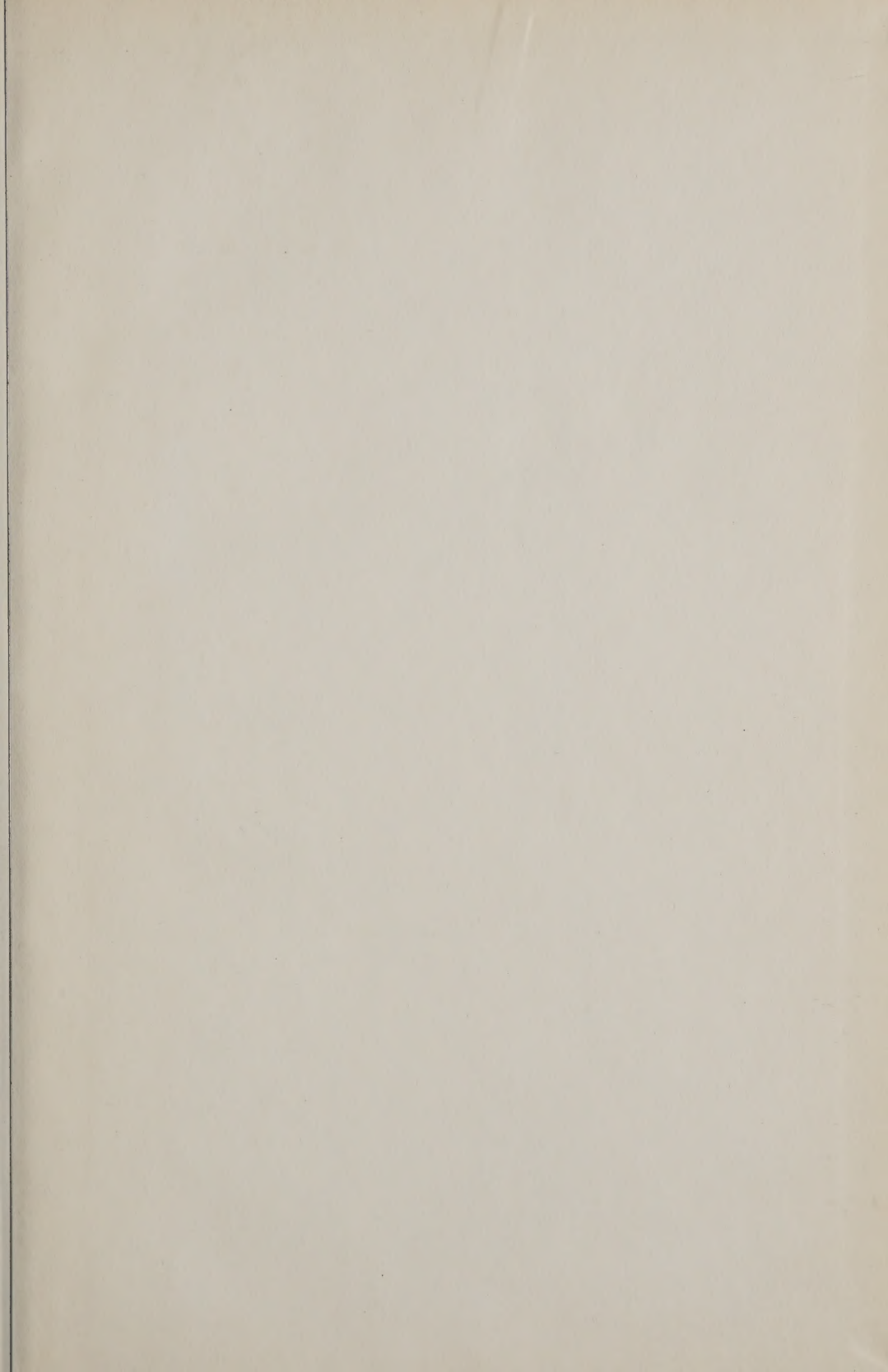
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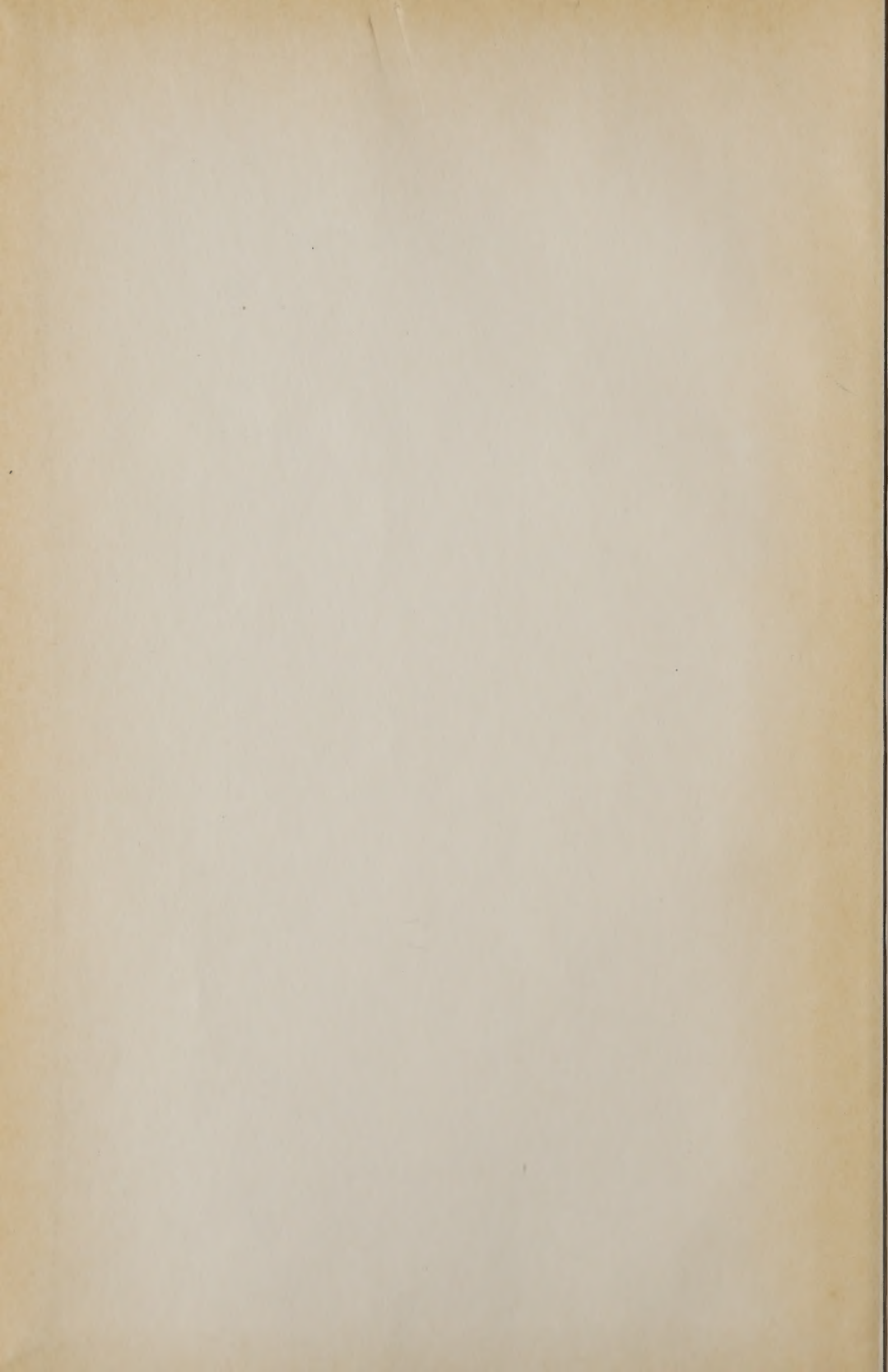
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PICTURE IN COLLECTION OF THE LATE DR. A. J. KEARNS MARKED LOUP CITY, SHERMAN COUNTY, MAY, 1886

Dr. A. J. Kearns came to Loup City in the spring of 1886 before the arrival of the railroad, and so arrived on the Kearney to Black Hills Stage then in operation. He made Loup City his residence where he practiced medicine through the pioneer period until his death in 1917.

This picture shows Dead Horse Creek in the foreground with the roadway across the prairie sod leading into town. At the top center is the old Bauer house, later moved south of Main Street to become the Troy Hale house, still later occupied by M. C. Mulick. The second schoolhouse is to be seen well to the right on the hill. The Porter Block dominates the left center of the picture. Two large livery stables in the center foreground are reminders of the horse and buggy era. There are many other houses, store fronts and landmarks which early residents will recognize.

—Courtesy of the Rev. Archibald J. Kearns, D.D., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland, Oregon
—Mrs. Constance Jenner Foley of Loup City also has a copy of this picture.



A Brief History
of
Sherman County
Nebraska

by
Meroe J. Owens

Printed by
The Norfolk Daily News
1952

An explanation of the change in the family name, which appeared in the Times, February 1, 1951, is reprinted.

Elsewhere in this issue appears a legal notice of our intention to change our family name of "Outhouse" to that of "Owens." We feel that our friends are entitled to an explanation of this act.

Our father and brother, A. B. Outhouse, was engaged in business and active in the civic affairs of this community for more than fifty years. We revere his memory and are proud of the part he played in the development of Loup City and Sherman County.

However, the family name has been, at times, a source of embarrassment to all of us, particularly in our relations with strangers who are not always as familiar with it as our local friends. For this reason, and particularly to spare the younger generation, we have decided upon the change. We hope it will meet with sympathetic understanding.

A. R. Outhouse
Meroe J. Outhouse
C. C. Outhouse

1143005

TO MY PARENTS
ALBERT BERNARD OUTHOUSE (1862-1945)
AND
MARY PRATHER OUTHOUSE (1862-1948)

WHOSE FAITH IN SHERMAN COUNTY NEVER FALTERED

Order - 1500

Preface

My parents arrived in Loup City, Sherman County, Nebraska, in December, 1887, after the coming of the railroads. The first hardships of pioneer life had been removed. Yet in courageous facing of the unknown, and in enduring loneliness and uncertainty, they underwent pioneer experiences. My mother appreciated the impact of the new conditions upon diverse nationalities; my father studied and met with determination the new situations he faced; both desired to make good things better. Therefore this brief history has been written.

To the secretary of the Nebraska State Historical Society, Dr. James C. Olson, and his assistants, Miss Myrtle Berry and Mrs. Grace Barbee; to the officials of Sherman County; to the staff of the Sherman County Times; and to my niece, Shirley Jane Owens, who drew the maps, special thanks is due. Judge C. E. Benschoter of Rushville kindly gave his approval of the use of the "Book of Facts," by his father, George E. Benschoter. To the many individuals who have answered questions, heartfelt thanks is given. Only a few were indifferent. My own family deserve special mention for their patience.

There are many gaps in the narrative; the limitations of time and space, and the errors which are bound to occur, make it an incomplete account, a matter of regret.

To my parents, who inspired this retelling of the county's development, this book is gratefully dedicated.

Meroe J. Owens

Loup City, Nebraska
June 1, 1952

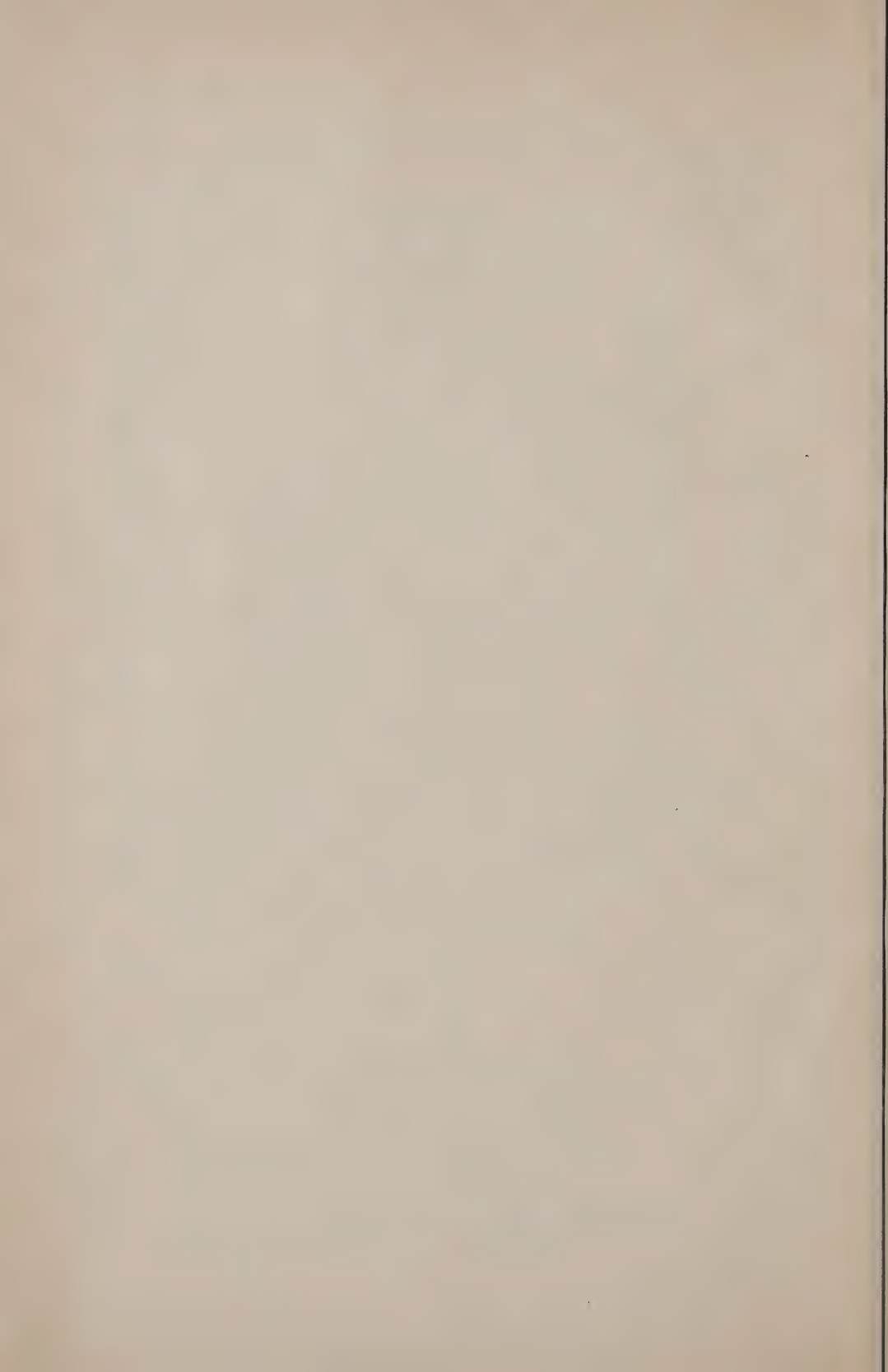
Table of Contents

Frontispiece, Loup City, May 1886

	Page
CHAPTER I — SHERMAN COUNTY TO 1886.....	1
1. Description, physical characteristics.....	1
2. Prehistoric Indian sites.....	6
3. Indians in Sherman County.....	7
4. Land entries	9
5. County organization	12
6. Experiences of early settlers.....	16
CHAPTER II — TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION.....	35
1. Trails and roads.....	35
2. Roads and bridges.....	36
3. Early mail and stage service.....	38
4. Railroad construction	42
5. Rural mail delivery.....	47
6. Telephone	48
7. Aviation	50
8. Trucking	50
9. Sherman County postoffices.....	51
10. Newspapers	53
CHAPTER III — SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES.....	58
1. Organization of school districts.....	58
2. Loup City schools, District No. 1.....	66
3. District No. 3, Soul(e)ville.....	70
4. District No. 8, Rockville.....	72
5. District No. 16, Ashton.....	72
6. District No. 15, Litchfield.....	73
7. District No. 32, Hazard.....	73
8. Parochial and private schools.....	73
9. Kindergartens	73
10. Libraries	74
CHAPTER IV — AMUSEMENTS, MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS PARKS	76
1. Amusements	76
2. Music and entertainments.....	81
3. Organizations	88
4. Parks	102
CHAPTER V — NATIONALITIES AND PLACE NAMES.....	104
1. Nationalities	104
2. Place names	113
CHAPTER VI — CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES.....	117
1. Churches of Loup City.....	117
2. Rural churches of Sherman County.....	126
3. Ashton churches	133

	Page
4. Hazard churches	135
5. Litchfield churches	136
6. Rockville churches	141
7. Cemeteries	143
 CHAPTER VII — FROM RANCHING TO DIVERSIFIED	
FARMING	146
1. Ranches	146
2. Farming and livestock.....	149
3. Poultry	151
4. Bees	152
5. Orchards and truck gardening.....	152
 CHAPTER VIII — MILLS, CREAMERIES, POWER, ELEVATORS	
1. Mills	153
2. Creameries	156
3. Electric power	160
4. Elevators	161
 CHAPTER IX — AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTERPRISES	
1. Sherman County Fair.....	162
2. Extension work in Sherman County.....	164
3. Sherman County Soil Conservation District.....	166
4. Sherman County Noxious Weed District.....	167
5. Proposed Power and Reclamation Projects.....	168
 CHAPTER X — IRRIGATION.....	
1. First attempts	169
2. Austin Irrigation Company.....	172
3. Middle Loup Power and Irrigation Project.....	172
 CHAPTER XI — DROUTH AND RELIEF IN SHERMAN COUNTY..	
1. From 1873 to 1930.....	174
2. Drouth, depression and relief, 1930 to present.....	177
 CHAPTER XII — MINERAL WEALTH.....	
1. Brickyards, gravel and sand.....	180
2. The search for gas and oil.....	182
 CHAPTER XIII — BANKS IN SHERMAN COUNTY.....	
 CHAPTER XIV — FINANCIAL HISTORY OF SHERMAN COUNTY..	
 CHAPTER XV — COURTHOUSE AND COURT HISTORY.....	
1. The courthouses	192
2. Court history	194
Mitchell and Ketchum; The Olive Gang; "Doc" Middleton; Smith vs. Smith; Willard-Richardson; Communist Riot	

	Page
CHAPTER XVI — TOWNS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS.....	205
1. Loup City, the county seat.....	205
2. Hospital and clinic.....	208
3. Kansas-Nebraska Gas Company in Sherman County.....	209
4. Ashton	209
5. Austin	211
6. Hazard	212
7. Litchfield	214
8. McAlpine	215
9. Rockville	217
10. Schaupps Siding	217
11. Soul(e)ville	218
12. Wiggle Creek	220
13. Wilhelmshohe, later Zeven.....	221
CHAPTER XVII — POLITICS IN SHERMAN COUNTY.....	222
1. Political Parties	222
2. Comissioner to supervisor form of organization.....	226
CHAPTER XVIII — AS IT GREW, A MISCELLANY.....	230
CHAPTER XIX — SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, 1948.....	248
CHAPTER XX — COUNTY OFFICIALS, POPULATION STATISTICS	251
BIBLIOGRAPHY	257
PLATS AND MAPS	
Sherman County, Rivers and Creeks.....	5
Sherman County, Railroads and Highways.....	37
Sherman County, 1884, Atlas Map, showing Postoffices.....	41
Sherman County School Districts, 1950.....	63
Sherman County, Township Development.....	223, 225, 228



CHAPTER I

1. Description of Sherman County

"That portion of the State of Nebraska known and described as Townships thirteen (13), fourteen (14), fifteen (15), and sixteen (16), north of the Base Line, and Ranges thirteen (13), fourteen (14), fifteen (15), and sixteen (16), west of the Sixth Principal Meridian, shall hereafter be known as the county of Sherman." (Laws, Resolutions, and Memorials, 1871, Legislative Assembly, State of Nebraska. Bill introduced by Honorable Leander Gerrard; Valley, Greeley, and Howard Counties defined at same time).

Sherman County, Nebraska, is in the seventh tier of counties west of the Missouri River, in central Nebraska, about half-way between the north and south boundaries of the state, and roughly the same distance from the east and west boundaries. It is a square county, approximately twenty-four miles each way; its area is 573 square miles, or 366,920 acres. The Middle Loup River crosses it diagonally from northwest to southeast. Paralleling the river are other waterways, Oak Creek on the east and Muddy and Clear Creeks on the west, which flow in the same southeasterly direction.

The county is bounded on the north by Valley, on the east by Howard, both square counties. On the west, Custer County is four times as large, while Buffalo on the south, is one and one-half times its size.

Its west-east boundary lies on the parallels 99 degrees, 14 minutes. Its north-south boundary lines are 41 degrees, 25 minutes and 41 degrees, 4 minutes. Correction lines in the survey make the township lines north and south show a jog as they enter the next county above or below.

A series of markers across the county (part of a line of them across the state), one of which is found in the southeast corner of the courthouse grounds at Loup City, give the mean elevation. The markers, placed by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Engineers Reed and Goodman, a CWA project, are standards from which to determine elevation with reference to sea level, bench level as it is called. The markers are set in a cement base. Such markers are of special value to power projects. (Sherman County Times, Febr. 1934; County Surveyor Stanley Moritz, Dec. 11, 1950). The marker on the courthouse lawn establishes the elevation there as 2,066.50 feet above sea level.

The Nebraska Blue Book for 1915 gave these altitudes for towns in Sherman County: Ashton, 2,061 feet; Litchfield, 2,162 feet; Loup City, 2,089, 2,073, and 2,067 feet; Hazard, 2,106 feet; Rockville, 1,980 feet; Schaupps, 2,093, and 1,869 feet; and McAlpine, 2,130 feet.

Well water of excellent quality is obtained from upland wells ranging in depth from 175 to 400 feet, with an average depth of 200 to 250 feet. Along the valley the wells vary in depth from ten to seventy feet. At Loup City the well water comes through a limestone deposit, which makes it "hard." Iron deposits impregnate the water on the Johnson farm, Sec. 9, T. 15, R. 14 to such an extent that clothes washed in it have a coppery tinge.

When the settlers entered the county in 1873, they found springs along some of the creeks. They were able to use creekspring water for drinking because the slopes adjacent were grass-covered. The ploughing of hills destroyed the clearness of the water. During the drouth of the early nineties, these springs dried up. When the rains came farmers reported that the springs along Davis Creek and Dead Horse were again flowing. (Northwestern, Febr. 28, 1896).

Sherman County's climate is marked by wide seasonal variations. Winters are long and cold; spring is relatively short and cool with some precipitation; and the fall season is relatively long with precipitation varying greatly from year to year. Summer is also rather short, marked by extremes of temperature. The coldest month is January with an average temperature of 23 degrees F, while July is the warmest month with an average temperature of 75 degrees. The maximum recorded is 111 degrees F; the minimum, -39 degrees F. The last killing frost (average) is May 7, and the earliest in the fall is about October 1. The latest killing frost on record is May 27; the earliest, September 12.

The spring rains are usually well distributed and as a rule slow and gentle. The summer rainfall occurs mostly as local thundershowers, typically heavy with considerable run-off in unprotected areas. Severe drouths are frequent. It was estimated by 57 farmers that in the county during the 17 years preceding the drouth of 1935, drouths occurred in 45% of the years, causing crop losses of 87% for the drouth season. Frequent hail storms occur in spotted areas.

The mean annual precipitation given in the 1941 Yearbook, "Climate and Man," for the 38-year period from 1900 to 1938 was 23.69 inches. The average yearly rainfall during the recent past has been lower. The average for the years 1938 to 1942 was 19 inches.

The wettest year on record was 1905 with 41.6 inches. The driest years were 1934 and 1936 with 12.2 inches each.

The bottoms and level or nearly level terraces along the streams comprise about 15% of the area of the county. Gentle slopes occur in only about 5% of the land area of the county, mostly in the southeastern part. Moderate slopes occur mostly in the east and south, covering about 10% of the land area. In the remaining 70% the slopes are steep and irregular.

The permanent streams of the county are the river, and Davis, Muddy and Clear Creeks. Some of the creeks are dry in their upper reaches during long periods of drouth. The remainder are intermittent. Runoff from areas covered by permanent vegetation can be used for watering stock by the proper construction of dams.

The smaller waterways are intermittent and usually well-defined, especially in the steeper areas where they are marked by narrow, V-shaped valleys. There are hummocky areas of sandy soil along the Middle Loup River. The river itself, with its never-ceasing flow of water (underground), is one of the greatest assets of the county.

East of the river the smaller waterways are, Davis Creek, in the extreme northeast corner; Turkey Creek, halfway between Davis and Oak Creeks; Deer Creek, half-way between Oak Creek and the Middle

Loup River; and Oak Creek, whose valley had a well-defined Indian trail when the first settlers arrived. West of the river, beginning in the northwest corner are: Cole (spelled Coale and Coal on the early maps), Moon, Cobb, and Brown creeks, which flow into the river above Loup City; and Wiggle Creek, joining the river near the center but below Loup City. On the west side are: Clear Creek, entering the county on its west line at the boundary between Townships 16 and 15N; Muddy Creek, entering the county on its west boundary, in Sec. 19, T. 14N, R. 16W. Clear and Muddy Creeks unite to form Beaver Creek, which leaves the county in Sec. 24, T. 13N, R. 16W. Dry Creek, Bloody Creek and Rock Creeks rise in the southeastern part of the county, and flow in a southeasterly to south direction. County Surveyor Moritz states that Beaver Creek is also the name applied to a short stream east of Dry Creek, flowing south.

A broad classification of soil types in Sherman County gives these classes:

Well Adapted to Cultivation—

Hall Silt, Hastings Silt Loam, Hall Very Fine Loam, Fine Sandy Loam, Lamoure, and Cass Fine Sandy Loam. (24.4%—89,024 A).

Generally Poorly Adapted to Cultivation—

Rolling Phase, Hastings Silt Loam, Holdrege Very Fine Sandy Loam, Cass Sandy Loam, and O'Neill Sandy Loam. (32.2%—118,464 A).

Generally Unadapted to Cultivation—

Colby Salt Loam to Very Fine Sandy Loam, Valentine Sand, Valentine Loamy Sand and Dune Sand. (43%—158,080 A).

Not Adapted to Cultivation—

Scott Silt Loam and Riverwash. (0.3%—1,152 A).

There has been little flood damage along the Middle Loup River since it has a very uniform rate of flow throughout the year. Some of the smaller streams, particularly Muddy Creek, overflow following periods of intense rains, but the damage is usually localized. The damaging floods of 1946 were caused by cloudbursts above Loup City.

(Much of the information in this section was secured from the Sherman County Soil Conservation Report, furnished by District Conservationist Stanly F. Roy).

Early settlers tell of the Loup River having been half a mile wider sixty years ago, with water running so swiftly in many places that it could not be forded. In digging down, they struck black dirt full of grass and tree roots. Some report having found cedar logs twelve feet below the surface, indicating forestation earlier.

Buffalo wallows or "lagoons," with a clay subsoil which prevents drainage, were also found by the early settlers. Several explanations of them are given. One was that early-day hunters, to trap buffalo, dug a pit against the side of a hill, drove the animals into it to cut them off, then killed at will. The bones and carcasses made an impervious bottom.

The well-grassed lands furnished sod for the settler. Clay, sand, and gravel, found in various parts of the county, have been utilized for brick-making and road-building. The trees, although not extensive,

furnished fuel and building material in the early days. O. S. Brown built a log cabin on the river west of Loup City in 1871. C. S. Riddell moved his saw-mill near this site in 1872, to cut logs into timber for the settlers. (Benschoter, Nebraska Record I. Book of Facts, p. 3).

The trees found by the early settlers of Sherman County were mainly willow, ash, cottonwood, elm, hackberry, boxelder and a little "scrub" oak. At rare intervals a stunted cedar tree would be found against a hill side. There are cedar canyons sixty miles north. Whatever cedar growth had once existed in Sherman County had been devastated by forest fire, or in some other way.

Buffalo and bunch grass grew on the hills. Big and little blue-stem appeared after the coming of the settlers, according to George Benschoter, who herded cattle in the middle seventies.

Elk, deer, antelope, beaver, mink, otter and muskrats attracted trappers and hunters. Prairie chicken, quail, grouse, wild ducks, wild geese and fish furnished food. Prairie dogs, rattle-snakes, coyotes and wolves, "skunks" and "bob-cats" annoyed the settler.

Wild grapes, plums, choke-cherries, and even the buffalo bean were native fruits. Of these, the wild plum was the favorite, with choke-cherries a close second. Wild gooseberries had an "alkali" taste which repelled the easterners.

Wild flowers were abundant. In early spring, the moccasin flower with its cats-paw blossom first appeared, along with bearded grass. Then came violets, wild onions, crowfoot, anemones, sheep sorrell, blue-eyed grass, Indian paint, wild roses, wild sweet peas, and other lupines. False solomon's seal and lady slippers were found in protected places. Later came evening primrose, the mallows, jewel-weed, golden-rod and sunflowers, asters of several kinds, daisies, "snow on the mountain" (euphorbia), smart-weed, and on the hills, thistles, prickly pear cactus (and sand cactus in the lower places), and yucca.

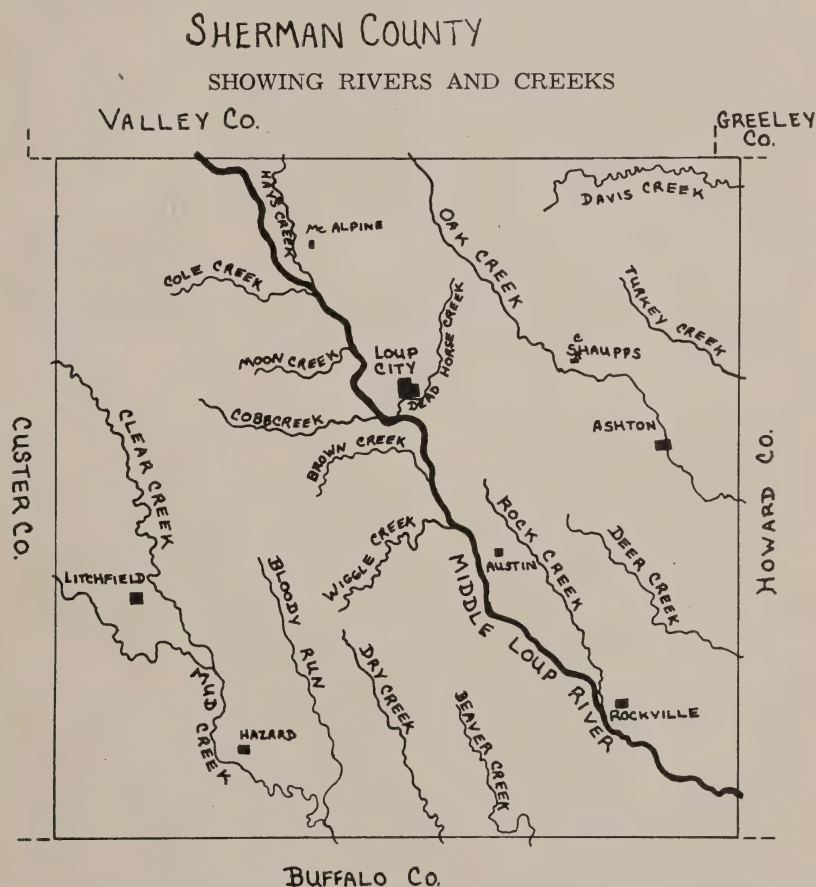
According to the earliest settlers, wild birds did not come until after the advent of the settlers. Then the robin, meadow-lark, wren, blue-jays, red- and yellow-headed blackbirds, catbirds, crows, hawks, woodpeckers, and eagles either helped or hindered the settler. There has been a bounty on crows at various times.

Had the report of government surveyors been read by early settlers, they might have been reluctant to establish farms in Sherman county. But the rush for land at the close of the Civil War, plus the railroad fever, tinged even the land of the "Great American Desert" as maps of 1855 called Nebraska, with a rosy hue.

The detailed survey of Sherman County was made in 1867-68. Of T. 13N, R. 13W, the surveyors noted little first-rate land, much second and third-rate soil, unfit for farming. Yet here the Pritschau's established their highly productive truck-farms. In August, 1867, T. 13, R. 14 was described as "second-rate river bottom land that can be made fit for cultivation by irrigation. This upland is unfit for cultivation, and cannot be irrigated". The river is shallow, has low banks, sandy bottom, clear water, swift current, and a few scattering trees

along its banks, cotton-wood and willow". T. 13, R. 16, the creeks with high banks, clear water, swift current, sandy bottom, and some trees, cottonwood, box-elder, and ash, were noted. (Government Survey, Sherman County, Nebr. In office of County Surveyor, Courthouse, Loup City, Nebr.).

The main branch of the Loup River (Middle), in Ranges 15 and 16 was described as "wide and shallow, with a rapid current and quick-sand bottoms. They have no practical value for irrigation and are difficult to cross."



Yet the surveyors were most enthusiastic in describing T. 15N, R. 14W. "The greater portion of 15N is considerably above the average quality. It is generally rolling first and second rate land, adapted to settlement and cultivation. There are two beautiful stream branches of the Loup Fork crossing the line (Second Guide Meridian), in a southeast direction. A very little timber along these streams, mostly scrub-oak."

T. 15, R. 16 was described by John F. Burch, deputy-surveyor, on July 17, 1868, as "a strong mixture of clay and sand, if not of

extreme dryness would do well for cultivation. No means of irrigation unless the common windmill be brought in for that purpose". The "common windmill" became common, and irrigation by canal was eventually realized. The general healthfulness of the climate, with dry air, wind, and moderate elevation, overcame some of these moisture handicaps.

The timber, scarce though it appeared to the surveyors and early settlers, supported a saw-mill west of Loup City in the 70's, moving up the river. From it, logs for the first buildings were cut. Wood was used as fuel in the courthouse in 1878, when three bids were received for 12 cords, cut in 2-foot lengths. (Comm. Rec. I, p. 258).

If there was timber on the land of an absent owner, he might try to protect it. "T. S. Holmes appointed John Hawk to prosecute trespassers and timber thieves in Sec. 23, T. 15, R. 15 E½NW¼, May 20, 1880". (Misc. Rec. I, p. 89). The first bridge over Dead Horse, in 1874, was to be built of cottonwood or cedar. The islands in the river furnished wood for fuel for farmers nearby, until the timber claims had matured.

(Unless otherwise indicated, the material in this section was secured from the Sherman County Soil Conservation District, furnished by Stanly F. Roy. Mr. Roy spells his given name "Stanly"; it is not a misprint).

2. Prehistoric Indian Sites in Sherman County

A scientific investigation of prehistoric Indian remains was made along Muddy Creek, in southwestern Sherman County, in 1931. (SW¼ 35-13-15). The site was discovered when the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad was grading a road-bed in 1888. The excavations made at that time cut across a housefloor, where the workmen observed bones and pottery. In 1929 Mr. A. T. Hill relocated the site, which in 1931 the University of Nebraska carefully investigated. Muddy Creek cuts a loess-mantled plain which once covered most of east and central Nebraska. In a triangular bench, covering eight or ten acres of the present valley of Muddy Creek, where it joined the smaller intermittent Bloody Run, eight caches were opened. Charred corn and beans, pottery with a cord design impressed upon it, fireplaces, arrowpoints, fine scrapers, flint chips, bone hoes, knives, awls, and a skull with a small hole in it, were removed. The conclusion reached by the scientists seems to have been that the Indians who lived on this site had a culture comparable to that of the Upper Republican Valley. The Smithsonian Institute took notice of the work. (Bell, Chapters in Nebraska Archaeology, Vol. I, Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1936).

A second scientific investigation was made in Northeast Sherman County in 1938, when Carlyle Smith of Columbia University assisted in a survey of Greeley, Sherman and Howard Counties. On the farm of Mr. Nicholas Whalen, (12-13-16), in very black soil, a small circular pit 2 feet in diameter by three feet in depth, was uncovered. Animal bones, mussel shells, flint chips, burnt stones, pottery shards, a polished boatstone, and scattered human bones, among them one of an infant,

were found. These remains were said to be of an early Indian culture known as the Woodland type. (Nebraska Historical Magazine, Vol. 21, No. 3, pp. 219-222).

3. Indians in Sherman County

Sherman County lay within land ceded by the Pawnee Indians to the United States Sept. 24, 1857. Omaha, Ponca, Sioux, and Pawnee all had hunted in the region. (Sheldon, History and Stories of Nebraska, Univ. Publ. Co., 1914). The Pawnee agency on the Loup at Genoa (reserved by them in the treaty of 1857), and Fort Hartsuff on the north, (built in 1874) insured safety for the settlers of Sherman County.

Indian graves have been discovered in various parts of Sherman County, notably on the bluffs of the river on its east side, north of Loup City. The Indians who came back for hunting and trapping seemed to know the location of these graves.

Roving Indian trappers and hunters proved an annoyance to the settlers. Edward Nielsen, who homesteaded on Oak Creek (7-15-13) in 1872, was shot in the face, and seriously, though not critically injured, by some Indians on the Loup River, near the present site of Loup City. (Johnson, History of Nebraska, Omaha, 1880). The presence of Indians, either singly or in groups, greatly annoyed some of the settlers. Sometimes they took their families to Grand Island or some other center. Occasionally a settler would haul his shack from his claim into Loup City.

Mr. George Benschoter, in his "Book of Facts", relates that Asa Cobb, who homesteaded south of Loup City on the creek which bears his name, spent half his time running from the Indians.

"In the spring of 1873, M. A. Hartley and Asa Cobb went up Hayes Creek into the edge of Valley County to kill some deer which had been seen by some one coming down the valley. They drove up a hill, where Hartley jumped out of the wagon and started into a "draw" on foot. Hartley had just located the game, when Cobb spied an Indian descending the hill on horse-back, a big red blanket wrapped around his shoulders. Cobb, frightened, whipped the horses into a run, descended the hill, pulled into the draw, scared the game, and shouted and waved his hat for Hartley. Hartley, wondering what the trouble was, soon came to the team and its frightened driver. He identified the Indian as belonging to a friendly tribe, who was also out hunting game. But Cobb refused to be comforted and drove to town with all possible speed." (p. 11).

Loup City entertained soldiers briefly, in 1874, according to a government record. When Clarence Douglas presented a bill, the government replied that they were refusing to pay because Capt. Mix refused to certify it. The reply indicated that \$40.00 had already been paid, at the Headquarters of the Platte in Omaha.

The county commissioners on July 21, 1874, ordered the county clerk to write to the government "petitioning for aid for our citizens." (Comm. Rec. I, p. 18). There is no copy of the letter extant, nor is there any record of the government's response. Old timers recall that needle guns were sent out, and assume that it was in response to the appeal. The guns were never used against the Indians, but were useful in killing wild game.

In 1875, another great Indian scare occurred. Harvey Andrews, who was then driving mail under government contract from Kearney to New Helena, via Loup City, reported one day that as he came down the valley he had sighted a large bank of Indians, across the divide beyond the Loup Valley. They were headed for Loup City, and he had driven his horses until they were foaming and panting in order to give the alarm. Two or three families, headed by Asa Cobb, went to Grand Island for safety. Scouts were sent out and were gone for some time. On their return they reported that they had seen a herd of over a hundred head of elk which had evidently come from the direction indicated by Andrews and were going to the river for a drink. (Benschoter, p. 11).

The Fredenburg Brothers settled east of Arcadia. The widower, Wm. H., Jr., built a stockade for the protection of the settlers in case of Indian raids. Across the line, in Sherman County, Col. J. M. Young, ex-Confederate soldier, had a sod cattle shed 80 feet long. Cattle were slaughtered and meat sold to those passing through. There was also a pit with sod walls which might be converted into a fort.

Some old settlers in Sherman County state that at one time preparation was made for possible attacks, by digging a passage from a house on the northeast corner opposite the courthouse square, to a nearby well.

Mrs. W. O. Brown recalled her first sight of Indians, after reaching Nebraska, when they came through the yard of her uncle's homestead to a fishing site on the creek near the river. Having been told that they liked bright colors, she hid a red skirt she owned. The Indians killed skunks for the oil, used by them for medicinal purposes. When they asked her aunt for something to eat, she delighted them by giving them uncured bacon, called "sow-belly". In turn, they presented her aunt with some of the skunk oil. They were on a trip to secure food for the winter, curing and drying fish and fowl. After her marriage her aunt often sent a cousin to stay with her, if Indians were in the vicinity.

The Indians might be insistent about the matter of food, demanding all a housewife had. To prevent this, the women learned to divide their supplies and store them in several different places. Then when they had given the Indians all the sugar or flour in one container, they still had some for themselves.

Mrs. Jessie Baillie Fisher told of Indians appearing one day just as the family had begun their noon meal. Without a word, the family left the table. The Indians went from plate to plate until all the food was gone, then proceeded to the matter for which they had come, to have her father sharpen their hatchets. Because he had a grindstone, Mr. James Baillie's farm was a mecca for trapping Indians. On another occasion, after two Indians had had their knives and hatchets sharpened, they accompanied a neighbor of Mr. Baillie's, Mr. George Gilbert, to his home up the river. When his wife saw her husband walking between the two Indians thus armed, she was certain her husband would be killed. The Indians had only wanted company toward the river, where their beaver traps were located.

Mrs. Viola Rosseter Odendahl, who had first known Indians in the

kitchen of her father's hotel in Grand Island, had even learned a few words of their language. At the age of ten, she was able to talk to Indians with the aid of these words and sign language.

Mrs. Minnie Ware Fisher tells of a visit Indians made to the home of a family named Barker, just over the line in Valley County. While Mrs. Barker prepared a meal for them, which they had asked for by pats of their stomachs, they explored everything in sight. The works were taken out of the clock, a button box led to a demand for string, on which they proceeded to string the buttons. They even broke the handles off the tea cups and tied them on the button string. After eating, they investigated the meat-barrel near the door and took all they could carry. In the chickenhouse, the hens on the nests were the ones taken. When they left, everything was upset, but "we were unharmed." (Interview, Aug. 31, 1951).

The late Norman B. Thompson, who came to Sherman County in 1873, related that in the year 1876 he heard that there had been a clash between Sioux and Pawnee in northeastern Sherman County. When he arrived at the neighborhood mentioned, about fifty Pawnee braves were picking up bodies of their slain, to give them a proper burial. (W. S. Waite, Sr., June 9, 1952). Indian graves were found along Dead Horse, and on the bluffs on the east side of the river. When Robert Harvey was assisting with the excavation of the irrigation ditch in Logan Township, in the summer of 1895, he uncovered a number of Indian caches and graves. (Northwestern, Sept. 27, 1895).

4. Land Entries

When settlers entered Sherman County in 1873, there were a number of ways by which land could be secured.

Probably the most popular, and the commonest, was by complying with the Homestead Act of 1862. Any person who was head of a family or 21 years of age, a citizen, or intending to become a citizen, was entitled to a quarter section of land. To secure it, he (or she), must reside on the land five years, pay stipulated fees, make certain improvements and cultivate the land, before final proof could be made and the patent (deed) received from the government. Soldiers might deduct the time of their military service. The land office located at Grand Island made business relating to land comparatively easy for Sherman County settlers, since many of them left the railroad at that point.

Under the act of 1862, Matthew Coleman filed on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 12-15-15, May 17, 1873. He made final proof and received his patent on Sept. 9, 1876. Marshall A. Hartley entered the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 26-15-51 on March 26, 1874, and received his patent from the United States government on Nov. 6, 1877. (Misc. Rec. I, p. 95). Hartley had served four years in the Civil War (Sergeant, Co. A, 7th Illinois Cavalry, having enlisted Aug. 10, 1861; discharged a first lieutenant, at Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 4th, 1865). On Jan. 31, 1876, he deeded the land to his wife, Eliza Hartley. She in turn sold it to Lyman J. Tracy on April 26, 1879.

Another method of securing land was by purchase, or preemption, under the Land Act of 1820. The settler paid \$1.25 per acre for the land. As amended Sept. 4, 1841, he lived on the land a year before paying for it. This year's grace allowed the settler to move, if he disliked his choice, or sell his preemption at a profit.

Often settlers chose the land, and made the entry later, as did the W. H. Stephens and Webster families, who arrived in July, 1872. Edward Nielsen is said to have had a dug-out on Oak Creek in 1871. Charles S. Lyon entered 1-14-13 on May 9, 1871, but cancelled it on May 8, 1873. It was reentered by John A. Baker on June 14, 1873.

The earliest land entries, in 1872, were: Edward Nielsen, 7-15-13, Apr. 15; Jonathan Arthaud, in 25-15-13, Apr. 19, 1872; Christian Thode, in 22-15-13, May 17; Leonard Hangartner, also in 22-15-13, May 19; Henry Plambeck, in 12-15-15, July 18; Thomas N. Johnson, in 8-13-15, Oct. 24.

Among those filing in 1873 were: Asa Cobb in 24-15-15, Jan. 24; John W. Harkness, John L. Cobb, and Asa Cobb, all in 8-14-14, April 14 and 24; John Wesley Eddy, in 34-16-15, Apr. 25; William Young and Perry Carleton, in 24-13-13, on May 1; Spence L. Davis, in 24-15-15, May 3; Matthew Coleman, in 12-15-15, May 17; George Hayes, in 8-16-15, May 14; Albert Lewis and Wm. W. Davis, in 24-15-15, May 17 and May 31; John A. Baker in 1-14-13, June 14; Edward Vandegrift in 10-14-14, June 16; Nelson De-Woody, 28-16-16, June 17; John J. Garbett, 12-15-15, July 19; William Walt, in 18-15-14, July 23; Martin Brumbaugh, Joseph Garden, Wm. H. Bunnell, in 12-15-15, and 32-15-14, Sept. 1; Samuel Hancock, in 32-15-14, Sept. 30; John Harkins, in 30-51-14, Sept. 30; Jacob Carlton, 30-15-14, Oct. 1; Richard Andrews, in 22-14-14, Oct. 10; Francis Lang, in 34-14-16, Oct. 13; Orville Dunlap, in 12-14-14, Oct. 16; Enos Arthaud, in 26-15-13, Oct. 17; Green Brown, Joel Scott, in 2-15-14; Alfred Brown, Noah Hawk, Darius Reynolds, in 30-15-14; and Daniel Hyde in 24-15-14, all on Oct. 22; Walter Moon in 10-15-15, Oct. 30; A. J. Watson, in 26-14-14, Dec. 9; Alfred Minshull, in 4-15-14, Dec. 12; Thos. H. Croston, in 28-31-15, Nov. 15; Alfred Flint, in 33-14-16, Dec. 19; Martin W. Benschoter in 18-15-14, Dec. 27.

The tax list of 1874 shows settlers who had not yet filed. It is to be noted that most filings were for even-numbered sections. A few settlers in the southeast part of the county had filed on sections later claimed by the Union Pacific, which filings held, according to the government ruling. Matthew Coleman, who had secured the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 12-15-15 under the Homestead Act, received title to the NE $\frac{1}{2}$ of the same section, by payment of \$200.00 at the Land Office at Grand Island, on Sept. 9, 1876. John Kisling secured the SE $\frac{1}{2}$ of 28-14-16, on May 4, 1878, under the Preemption Act of 1820. By preemption, homestead, and timber culture, one settler might become a large landholder at a low price.

Another popular way of securing land in Sherman County was under the Timber Culture Act of 1873 (subsequently revised). This act provided that by planting 10 acres of 160 to trees, (a fourth part if less than 80 acres), cultivating them, ploughing a fireguard, and making proof that a certain number were alive at the end of eight, later ten, years, the land was the settler's. The filing fee (\$14.00), cost of improvements, and his labor secured the land. A Tree Claim

was entered by Ernest F. Jendrick on March 14, 1883, the SE $\frac{1}{2}$ of 22-14-15. He received his deed on Sept. 23, 1893. Tree claims were often abandoned, "cancelled by relinquishment", and subsequently reentered as a homestead or bought outright under the Preemption Act. Notices of final proof were common in the county papers: as when

"John N. Fisher made final proof of timber claim NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 34-16-14, witnesses J. Q. Pray, John Jens, Herman Fiebig, John Ware." (Northwestern, Apr. 23, 1896).

Agricultural college script apparently was used only twice in Sherman County. States east of the Mississippi River were allotted lands in western states to finance agricultural colleges in the eastern states. This script had been rapidly bought by speculators at a low price. With it a purchaser could secure land at a reduced rate. Martin W. Benschoter and Edward Nielsen offered Florida script in payment for quarter sections in 18-15-14, and in 7-15-13. What they had paid for it is not known. The original purchaser of this Florida script perhaps paid only forty or fifty cents per acre. If it was resold for seventy-five cents, the one using it was securing government land at a saving of fifty cents, since the price under the Preemption Act of 1820 was \$1.25 per acre.

The Burlington and Missouri Railroad had been allowed to claim 131,853.53 acres in Sherman Co., under an Act of 1862. When they had settled their quarrel with Sherman County over taxes assessed from 1873-78, they had promised to promote the sale of lands, by advertising, furnishing agents, etc. Their sale of railroad lands, on rather easy terms, enabled speculators to acquire land in large blocks. Prices varied. Wm. Brown bought a quarter section for \$117.97 (Sept. 21, 1878, Deed Rec. I, p. 167). Frank Wheeler paid \$120.00 for a quarter; Horace Clark and Scott Ward bought a section for \$250.00 in Aug. 1878. Ducat, Sym, and Palmer of Chicago paid \$160.00 for the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 15-15-15, in 1879; Alfred M. Craig of Galesburg, Ill., paid \$220.00 for a quarter in 13-13-15. Charles H. Mathews paid \$728.00 for all of 7-13-14 on April 24, 1879, and resold three quarters of it to Francis Fuller the same day for \$2000.00. Mathews bought four other sections the same day, at an average price of seventy-five cents an acre.

The great advantage of buying railroad land was that one secured the land at once, with title perfect. This was also true of land bought under the Preemption Act, at the price of \$1.25 per acre. Entering homesteads or a "tree claim" meant that one could abandon it if the land was found not suitable. Mrs. John Needham stated that there was much moving from hill to valley, or vice versa.

The tree claims also afforded a chance to exaggerate the condition of the trees. A few settlers, wise in the choice of land, planted trees that grew to splendid maturity, such as those of W. H. Stephens near Rockville. Often, because of ignorance of land and growing conditions, the trees were stunted and twisted, despite the efforts of the planter.

The law was so worded that growing crops on the homestead, or crops under cultivation, might mean little or much. Mrs. C. J. Tracy (Sarah Katherine Brewer) told of "hoeing in" seed corn her-

self, when she entered a homestead in 1884, while teaching a school in southwest Sherman County. When it came up she was amazed, and amused her relatives by exclaiming "Why, it's growing". "Sod corn", it was called, because it was planted directly in the sod, with little cultivation.

Sections 16 and 36 had been set aside by the Enabling Act of April 19, 1864, for the support of public education in the state. Subsequently most of this land was sold and the revenue applied to the state school fund. Lands not sold were leased. There are two sections of school land in Sherman County under lease.

(Note: The Burlington and Missouri River Railroad was granted each alternate section of land, by an act of July 2, 1864, in return for constructing a railroad to the 100th meridian. They chose the Sherman County lands in 1872, with their surveyors checking the location. Wm. F. Steiger was agent for the railroad, selecting, operating and selling. Book of Deeds, Bk. I, p. 542). The Union Pacific received a few thousand acres of Sherman County land, most of it in 13-13 and 13-14).

5. County Organizations

M. W. Benschoter and C. E. Rosseter planned the organization of the unorganized county of Sherman at the latter's hotel in Grand Island, in the fall of 1872. Mr. Benschoter had been located in Falls City, Nebraska, after leaving Iowa, and he returned there after a few years in the Middle Loup Valley. Mr. Rosseter stated in later years that he had not expected, when he came to Loup City with his family, to remain there. It was to be with him a business project. But fate decreed otherwise, and he spent most of his life in the Middle Loup Valley.

The aid of Othman A. Abbott, a young lawyer who had come to Grand Island, the preceding year, was enlisted. It was on his stationery that the letter requesting permission to organize was written. The petition, a small sheet of ruled foolscap, written in purple ink, bearing the creases of several different folds, is now in the governor's files in the state capitol.

"Sherman County, State of Nebraska. To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives, in Legislature Assembled:

We, the undersigned Citizens of Sherman Co., State of Nebraska, would respectfully represent that the immediate organization of Sherman County would greatly subserve the interest and add to the comfort and business convenience of the people of Sherman County which is rapidly increasing in population. Your memorialists would therefore respectfully request your favorable and prompt consideration of the claims of the people of Sherman County and pass an act at your earliest convenience for the immediate organization of the county. We would further respectfully request that you appoint Matthew Coleman, Charles E. Webster, and Martin W. Benschoter, Citizens of Sherman

County, State of Nebraska, as Commissioners to organize county and as in duty bound would ever pray,

Matthew Coleman
(blank)

M. W. Benschoter
Wm. Walt

John J. Garbett

Frank Hicks

P. Keitges (German scrip)

W. H. Stephens

C. E. Webster

A. W. Knight

H. W. Humes

J. H. Stough

John R. Baker

Walter Moon

C. E. Rosseter

Thomas Hamit (?)

Warner Huntoon (?)

G. W. Wade

F. W. Wells

H. J. Stone

D. Greene

Appoint Martin W. Benschoter Registrar. Election to be held at residence of said Benschoter at Loup City in said county.

The first five signatures are signed with purple ink, the rest with an off color black. The petition was enclosed with the following letter.

Law Office — Othman A. Abbott
Grand Island, Dec. 26, 1872

Gov. James,
Lincoln, Nebr.

I have the honor to enclose a petition of sundry citizens of Sherman County for its organization. It is addressed to the Legislature by a mistake on their part of the proper person. As it speaks the wish of the people of the county so far as I have any knowledge, and it would be a difficult task to get another petition signed during the present inclement season I advised them to send it to you believing you would overlook the address and regard the substance of the petition and grant its prayer.

The parties who are immediately moving in this matter are energetic and have agents out to induce emigration.

I am very respectfully,
Your O'b'd't Serv't
O. A. Abbott

P.S. Send papers etc., to me. No office at Loup City yet.
The Proclamation and Commission was issued Jan. 30, 1873.

The governor's reply has not been found, but a letter was sent from the Abbott office.

Law Office — Othman A. Abbott
Grand Island, Nebraska
Jan. 1, 1872

(This was an error, it was 1873)

Gov. W. H. James, Lincoln

Sir: Your favor of the 28th ult. to hand in reference to the organization of Sherman Co., and in accordance with your request I send the following names for appointment to the various offices, to wit:

Matthew Coleman

William Walt, Clerks of Election

M. W. Benschoter, Registrar

Election to be held at the residence of M. W. Benschoter at Loup City, Sherman Co. — make the election 60 days from date of proclamation if you deem it consistent, etc. etc. I have the power to be,

A. O. Abbott

On January 30, 1873, Gov. Robert W. Furnas issued a proclamation ordering an election in the unorganized county of Sherman, and on

March 3, 1873, the legislature's bill bounding Sherman County went into effect. The earlier definition of the boundary lines, dated March 1, 1871, had been sponsored by Leander Gerrard of Platte County, who may be assumed to have been responsible for naming the county after Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman of war fame.

The governor's order stated that on April 1, 1873 the election "to take place at the place or places determined by the judges—for the choosing of three county commissioners, one county clerk, one treasurer, one sheriff, one probate judge, one surveyor, one county superintendent of public instruction, one coroner, three judges of election, and two clerks of election."

The petition had asked that Matthew Coleman, Charles E. Webster (another name had been erased and Mr. Webster's written in) and Martin W. Benschoter act as commissioners to organize the county.

In Election Record, Volume I, P. 1, the results of the first election are given. This book is in the office of the county clerk, and is probably one of those carried by Mr. Rosseter on horseback from Grand Island. (Benschoter, Book of Facts, p. 55).

The Election results, as recorded:

Commissioners:

M. W. Benschoter.....	14
Edward Nielsen	9
Matthew Coleman	14
County Clerk: William Walt.....	9
County Sheriff: M. W. Hartley.....	14
Probate Judge: R. W. Russell.....	14
Coroner: Peter Keitges.....	13
County Treasurer: C. E. Rosseter.....	13
Constable: James Stough.....	5
County Clerk: A. W. Knight.....	5
Superintendent of Schools: Thomas Johnson.....	13

Vote for the location of the county seat: E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, 18-15-14, "by a vote of 14 being all the votes cast in said county in said election."

M. W. Benschoter recorded that he posted the notice of the election, which was held at the residence of Wm. Walt.

Since Benschoter did not record his purchase of Wm. Walt's quarter section until July, it was correct to state that the election had been held at the home of Wm. Walt.

George Hayes was appointed county surveyor, but was later replaced by H. W. Humes.

At the time of election Loup City boasted a store, housed in a little log hut near Dead Horse Creek. Here, two weeks later, on April 13, 1873, government soldiers were to take refuge when the Easter blizzard struck. By August, 1873, there were seven houses in Loup City. Nielsen and Arthaud were on their claims on Oak Creek, Stephens, Webster and Thos. N. Johnson were living near the present Rockville, but Mr. and Mrs. Stephens had returned to Iowa to buy cattle, leaving young Noah Vanscoy in charge. While the election was held April 1, the elected commissioners did not record a meeting until June 29, 1873. At this meeting, called to order by William Walt, county clerk, Edward Nielsen was elected chairman of the board of com-

missioners. Martin W. Benschoter made two motions, one that Alfred Brown be assessor of Sherman county, and a second one, that 40 thousand dollars be voted for a bridge across the Middle Loup and other streams and for the erection of a courthouse.

Much had undoubtedly been done between the time of election and the first recorded meeting. Perhaps Mr. Rosseter did not secure the county record books until some time in June. His family was still in Grand Island, while he was supervising the building of his hotel, which was to open in August.

The tax list of Sherman County for 1873, as recorded by the county assessor for the county treasurer's record, is contained in Bk. I, pp. 1-17.

The first entry is that of railroad lands, the B & M for the odd-numbered sections, with a few exceptions, where a private entry had been made. N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sections 25, 27, and 29 in T 13, R 14, were entered by the Union Pacific.

A summary of the findings of the assessor: Tax List for 1873

No. acres listed.....	151,580
(The average assessed valuation, \$2.09)	
Money used in mf.....	\$45
No. of horses and oxen.....	79
Mules	17
Neat cattle	180
Swine	64
Carriage wagons	49
Furs and jewelry.....	50
Personal property	7,225.50
No. of polls.....	85
No. of dogs.....	48
R. R. property.....	\$149,800.00

The Census:

Under 5	56
Males under 21.....	164
Females under 21.....	66
Males over 21.....	110
Females over 21.....	64

460

April 29

The tax list for 1874 carries these names.

E. S. Atkinson, Benj. D. Allen, Richard Andrews, Jonathan Arthaud, John R. Baker, Chas. J. Baker, L. E. Baumgardner, Benschoter Bros., O. S. Brown, Alf. Brown, Mary Brown, Martin W. Benschoter, Wm. H. Bunnell, Wm. Benschoter, Green P. Brown, Austin Butts, Wm. Carruth, David Christian, Matt Coleman, Asa C. Cobb, Ed Douglas, Clarence Douglas, Frank Day, Almon Benschoter, Bro. Davis, E. J. Davis, Orville Dunlap, John W. Eddy, Asa B. Flint, Alfred Flint.

Henry Gardner, H. L. E. Goelling (Dr.), A. Griff, J. J. Garbutt, John Hardenburg, George Hayes, Wm. Hawk, John W. Harkins, M. D. Hyde, H. W. Humes, John L. Hawk, S. Hancock, W. R. Hodges, John A. Hendrix, M. A. Hartley, Frank Ingraham (Ingram), Thomas N. Johnson, Charles Johnson, M. Hokensen, Krama Hokensen, John B. Kisling, Peter Keitges, J. B. Lozier, Albert Lewis, Jacob Layton, Mitch Mason, John McTigue, Walter Moon, Ed. Nielsen, Wm. Pritschaw (Prit-

schau), Henry Plambeck, J. H. Ross, Darius Reynolds, Foster Reynolds, R. W. Russell, C. E. Rossiter (sic), C. C. Riddell, Charles Sisters, W. H. Stephens, Charles Smith, Rebecca D. Soule, A. B. Tutton, J. L. Thompson, C. H. Thode, Mary C. Taylor, N. B. Thompson, John Rath, James W. Reid, Ellen Shaler.

6. Experiences of Early Settlers

From the "Book of Facts" published by Mr. George Benschoter, son of Wm. Benschoter, in 1897, these stories are taken:

Mr. Oliver S. Brown wrote to George E. Benschoter in 1897:

In the fall of 1872 in company with Mr. Soule (George W.) and Mr. Posegate I made my first trip through Sherman County, Nebraska, going up the Middle Loup as far as Arcadia, and from there crossed over to the North Loup in Valley and Garfield Counties. I should judge that I went up in the North Loup country as far as the present location of Ft. Hartsuff (north of Ord). In making the trip we came out on the Middle Loup Valley near the Jim Zink farm south of Loup City.

Mr. Brown tells of seeing a herd of several hundred elk and of Mr. Posegate's shooting a buck antelope with an old musket. This gun had to be held with the hammer up until time to fire. Bullets to fit it had to be rolled on an old ploughshare, since they had no bullet moulds to fit the gun.

As they entered Valley County they saw smoke, and fearing an Indian encampment, went up on a hill just as a fearful rain and hail storm broke. Before locating the wagon and team the rush of water caused them to lose their provisions.

Next day they found a sod dug-out, asked the lady for supper, and were told that about sixty redskins had camped not far away. They had robbed Trapper Jack Swearington (who lived in a shanty near Scotia) of his skins, furs, and provisions. Captain Munson and his command appeared later, was told by the Indians that they were on their way to give the Sioux "a good licking," and were ordered back to their grounds by the Captain.

We returned to Grand Island by way of North Loup, and shortly after made another trip to Sherman County, where Mr. Soule and myself located homesteads. Mr. Posegate was the owner of a large sheep ranch on Prairie Creek, northwest of Grand Island, and had only made the trip to see the country, while Mr. Soule and I were in search of homes.

John R. Baker, in a letter dated Febr. 25, 1897, wrote this account of his first trip to Sherman County.

I am eighty-five years old today, and I have lived in Sherman County twenty-six years. I propose to add another link—I came to Sherman County in 1872 and picked my homestead on Oak Creek. I first came from Illinois with my family and stopped in Omaha for some weeks. At Omaha a gentleman told me that he had a squad of men between the North and Middle Loup valleys surveying every alternate section for the B. & M. R. R. Company and he was of the opinion that no better land could be found in Nebraska than on those streams. This gentleman invited me to go with him and stop with the surveyors for a few days and see the country, and learn from them the best location to secure a homestead that would suit my fancy.

I wanted a farm with timber and a stream of spring water. After considering the matter I concluded to accept the gentleman's invitation, and came on to Grand Island.

On my arrival at Grand Island I put up at the Franklin Hotel, of which C. E. Rosseter was then proprietor. All the boarding places in Grand Island were crowded with people, many of whom, like myself, were looking for a home in the west. At the Franklin Hotel I met Martin Benschoter and told him that I intended to go up into the Loup country, and join the party of surveyors. Mr. Benschoter also desired to see the Loup country, and so we made arrangements for the trip. We hired a Union soldier at \$4.00 per day to take us not to exceed one hundred miles the round trip. This was the last of October, and we went in pursuit of the Taylor outfit of surveyors.

Mr. Baker tells of being fed on venison at the B & M surveyor's camp, which moved the next day to Oak Creek. The visitors went from Oak Creek up the Middle Loup valley, then returned to Grand Island. Mr. Baker decided on a homestead on Oak Creek (1-14-13), where Mr. Benschoter offered to build a house if he could occupy it until Baker's family arrived. Mr. Baker purchased a load of heavy lumber in Grand Island. He and Mr. Benschoter then hired a livery team with Frank Hicks as driver, packed C. E. Rosseter's set of tools, provisions and heavy blankets, and set out.

Toward evening the warm weather suddenly changed. Ten miles from Grand Island the driver was forced to go back for a horse to replace a balky one. During the night a wind storm arose, and the mercury dropped fifty degrees, to ten below zero.

With his spade, Mr. Benschoter made an excavation 18 inches deep, 4 x 6, which he afterward called Fort Baker. The wagon box served as a roof, under which the two men crept, lying side by side with three double Indian blankets over them. Even their eyes were covered to keep out the sand.

Within an hour, Mr. Baker's feet were numb with cold, but when Mr. Benschoter proposed going to the house of Mr. Ammons, a blacksmith, Mr. Baker refused (he was nearly sixty years old).

The horse tied to the wagon whinnied constantly, a target for wolves in the full moonlight. Mr. Benschoter wrapped Mr. Baker's feet in a blanket, then started through the flying sand for shelter. He reached Ammons' at one o'clock so exhausted that he and Frank Hicks were unable to return to Mr. Baker until next morning. Mr. Baker rested at the Ammons home for two days, then returned to Grand Island. Here he hired Peter Keitges to haul the load of lumber from the sandhills to Oak Creek and to Peter Detlef's house, a distance of twenty miles. When the second load of lumber was taken to Oak Creek, he found that Mr. Benschoter and Hicks had gone to Loup City, where they located the county seat. At this time, between Loup City and Dannebrog were only three families, the Charles Websters, Thomas N. Johnsons, and W. L. Stephens. Peter Detlef and Ed Nielsen had dug-outs on Oak Creek (SW and SE $\frac{1}{2}$ of 8-15-14), and soon Jonathan Arthaud also.

The Stephens and Webster families had come to Sherman County together. Mr. and Mrs. Stephens had been married in Illinois in

May, 1872, and started at once for Kansas, over whose northeast corner Mr. Stephens had walked during the Civil War. When they stopped in Iowa to visit the Websters, whom they had known in Illinois, a young cousin driving the second Stephens wagon had become so homesick that he started back to Illinois on foot.

The Websters were loading a wagon to go to Nebraska, so Mr. Stephens decided that he would go there, since one of the Webster boys could drive his second wagon. Favorable talk at Grand Island sent them northwest along the Middle Loup. They camped the night of July 25, 1872, near Rockville. Next morning, the sight of the flowing Middle Loup and the grass decided their location. As they looked around, they found a dug-out on the banks of a creek and fallen cottonwoods near the river, left possibly by trappers and hunters.

Mr. Webster chose land in Sec. 8-13-13, later the site of Rockville. Mr. Stephens went a half mile further up the river where there was more timber. He did not enter his homestead at once, but did enter a timber claim in 14-13-13 on January 8, 1874. He built a cabin, and here they spent the first winter. Here he planted cottonwoods at first, but if they died, he filled in with box elder seedlings, which he got from the seeds of a huge boxelder on a railroad quarter nearby.

One night the next spring a hallooing was heard across the river from the Stephens cabin. Mr. Stephens told the stranger where to find the river, he and Mr. Webster helping with the wagon. The Humes' spent the night with the Webster's and went on to Loup City where Mr. Humes became the county surveyor, while Mrs. Humes baked bread for the "settlement".

All about the Stephens cabin was land suitable for grazing. Mr. Stephens planned to have a cattle ranch, since he was not too fond of regular farming. On April 1, 1873 (election day at Loup City), he and his wife started back to Iowa to purchase cattle. They left at the homestead a young man, Noah Vanscoy, who with the team was to break prairie while looking after the place.

Sunday, April 13, came the terrible blizzard. Young Vanscoy was trapped in the cabin for three days. The team in the rude barn trampled down the snow as it came inside. Remembering where he had left the scoop, young Vanscoy dug out the cabin and barn. Inside the barn, the backs of the horses were almost to the roof.

Strangers visited the place and stole the harness. Vanscoy trailed them to Lone Elm (Central City), but failed to secure help. By the time a letter reached the Stephens in Iowa, and a reply arrived, it was almost too late for breaking sod.

When Mr. Stephens and his wife returned, Lewis Butts was driving a herd of 100 head, including calves and a purebred Shorthorn bull. Settlers had settled around the Stephens homestead in numbers, so the ranch idea was abandoned. Also, the panic had struck; Mr. Stephens had his all in cattle, and when people came to buy the fine cattle, they had nothing to offer in payment. Mr. Stephens himself was obliged to leave a wagon with an implement dealer in Grand Island, when he bought a mower to put up hay.

Later, to take care of the milk, he started the cheese factory described by Mont Hawthorne in "Them Was the Days". Gradually, the effects of the panic of '73 wore off.

Herding cattle was a necessity because of Nebraska's herd law. There was little market for the produce, and great expense in reaching market. To secure cash, many farmers hauled cedar logs from the canyons sixty miles north of Sherman County. Later, twenty to thirty teams loaded with cedar logs from 40 to 100 feet long passed through Loup City enroute to Grand Island.

When Martin W. Benschoter planned the organization of Sherman County, he sent word to his brother William, in Delaware County, Iowa, of the garden spot in the Middle Loup Valley. William sold his Iowa real estate and with wagons left Iowa on May 30, 1873. His family consisted of his wife and himself, daughters, Clara and Alice, and three boys, including 14 year old George, future editor of the Loup City Northwestern.

It took five weeks and two days to make the trip, with four loaded wagons and over a hundred head of cattle. They camped enroute, reaching Hancock Hill, southeast of Loup City, on July 4, 1873. Here they ate their mid-day lunch, the boys sitting astride the wagon tongue. Benschoter bought the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 18-15-14 of William Walt, paying about \$800.00 for it. (Deed Rec. I, p. 1, recorded July 23, 1873, in Hall County, Nebr.)

William Benschoter soon built a story and a half house, hauling the lumber from Grand Island. This house was used as a printing office and also housed the first county clerk. It is today owned by L. L. Stephens and occupied by Mrs. Ruth Long, county superintendent.

When C. E. Rosseter brought his family from Grand Island, they made a "considerable party." The first night they slept on the floor of an unfinished building near Dannebrog. The next night the sod house of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Johnson (just over the line in Sherman County) afforded sleeping quarters. The third night they had reached Loup City, at that time a settlement of seven houses.

Alice Rosseter, later Mrs. O. B. Willard, wrote of the experience: (The Nebraska Record, Vol. 2, No. 13, Febr. 1916):

the one striking object — was a high column of smoke on the western horizon. It was from the saw mill on the river directly west from the present U. P. station. From this mill, operated by C. C. Riddell, came the boards and chinks which finished (my) father's house, then 18x24, to be opened the next day as a hotel, even without a door or window in place, no stairs and no chimney . . . The few settlers . . . provided everyone with a warm supper and a place to sleep for the women and children. The men slept in the wagons.

Often the new settler walked from Grand Island or Kearney to Sherman County. Herman Jung with his brother August, already located on a homestead, walked the distance to Loup City, July 3, 1875. "Footsore? Well, I guess yes." John Hogue was at that time past sixty years of age. Peter Rowe, Tom Papi-neau, and Jim Donald with a contract to lath and plaster C. L. Drake's hotel in 1886, missed the stage at Ravenna and in consequence had to walk or lose their job. (Benschoter, Book of Facts, pp. 54-56).

A. E. Charlton came from York in the fall of 1873 to run a small general store for Dr. A. B. Tutton, who had come from York to the newly organized county of Sherman. Walking from St. Paul, Mr. Charlton saw the light in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Hawk. (It was Mrs. Hawk's practice to place the light near the window, in order to aid any chance passerby). Mr. Charlton stopped, spent the night with these new-found friends, and ever after told the story of the "light in the window".

The county attracted many settlers, some of whom stayed only a year, as the many cancellations show. The improvements they had made in this one season were an aid to those who came after them.

The settling of the Burlington Railroad controversy with Sherman County, and the advertising campaign which they carried on, resulted in a great influx of settlers after 1878. A number of postoffices had been established, there was a stage and mail route to Kearney, with arrangements for overnight stops. These usually consisted of shelter for teams, and a space on the floor where the traveller rolled up in his own bedding. Often the traveller carried his own food, buying only coffee of the landlady.

When Albert H. Mead, his wife and two children came from New York to Nebraska in the late autumn of 1878, Mr. Mead wrote back that "nothing is familiar along the line of nature except the sun, moon, and stars."

Friends near Grand Island found for the young couple an abandoned sod house, whose lumber they used to build another house. News of land opening in Sherman County prompted Mr. Mead to walk thirty miles to inspect it. By taking out pre-emption papers at once, he could secure possession in January. The house in Hall County was torn down and hauled by his friend Mr. Varney to the new place, where it was rebuilt, twelve feet square, one room below and one above. With Mr. Mead operating the windlass, a neighbor dug a well. A forty-foot long sod stable and chicken house was built. Sand was used for a plaster to make the dwelling warmer.

In breaking sod, Mr. Mead learned that the ploughshare had to be constantly resharpened. Moisture helped when sod was being cut.

After breaking and planting, Mr. Mead "hired out" to a man near St. Paul after July 1. In order to reach the place, he was obliged to swim Clear Creek. When his clothes got away in the current, he recovered them with great exertion, since he had "better than \$20" in a pocket. The wheat harvest lasted just a month, but the wages were a help.

At this time school district No. 25 was organized. The building was of sod with wooden rafters and a dirt floor. Mrs. Mead was the teacher. The order for her three months wages, written on a small sheet of ruled paper in faded ink, was preserved by the Meads. It directed the treasurer of the district to pay to Lucy J. Mead \$57.50 signed by James Gray, director and John W. Heapy, moderator, dated Nov. 28, 1881. (Her husband was treasurer. This paper is filed with the State Historical Society).

With an ox-team, Mr. Mead made a trip to the mill at Gibbon, in Buffalo County, fifty miles south, in 1880. The lonesome trip with 20 bushels of wheat and a sack of corn was worthwhile, for he returned with food for the winter, flour, shorts for pancakes, cornmeal for johnny cakes and mush. He also procured some sorghum on the trip.

For warmer winter quarters, Mr. Mead had made a dug-out, with an 8 x 12 stairway, and a door with a half-window for light. There was also a window in the end of the roof over the dug-out. The stairway drifted full of snow at times.

The second spring, an acreage of wheat was planted. To harvest it, a combined reaper and mower was used, with parts interchangeable. In June, 1882, Mr. Mead also filed on a timber claim in 4-14-16. He built a two-room house of lumber, with a sod partition, wood floors, and plastered walls. The sod roof rested on rafters covered first with brush, then with hay and dirt. Boards over the sod roof made it water-proof. Shade trees were planted, also apple and cherry trees. There were two wells, one for the stock and one for the family. It was, Mr. Mead commented in 1927, an ideal place for poor people. (Account written by his eldest daughter, Mrs. W. H. Draper, in 1927).

Children shared in the work of the pioneer, with herding as one of their chief tasks. The Albert Sperling family came from Pennsylvania (Pittsburg) to Sherman County in 1878, because of the father's poor health. The family came to Lincoln, from there to Grand Island, and finally to a homestead near Oak Creek, the NE¼ of 26-16-13. (filed Aug. 14, 1879). Bertha, one of the three sisters and two brothers, recalled the distance as 65 miles from Grand Island, a trip which required three days.

The family lived under an upturned wagon for four weeks, securing water at first from a "mudhole" and the creek. Shortly after, a well-digger came. A prairie fire went south, then came back north. When the well-digger saw blades of grass hurling through the air, he hurried to plough a furrow.

The Sperlings had two cows and a calf. They placed their possessions on a pile of dirt. A cousin, with Bertha and her eight-year-old brother, were with the cow and calf, which dragged them to safety. Everything was burned except the sod house. The parents who had been fighting the fire, could not locate the children. When the sun went down, the cow found the path to the house where the parents were.

South and west of them was a bachelor's place, a dug-out in the ground, with straw overhead and one small pane of glass in the door. Here the family stayed until spring. The older brother went to Grand Island to work for a Mr. Sasse who had a hotel near the railroad. The two dollars per month he received, with help from neighbors, carried the family through the winter. The bachelors went to New York for the summer, so the Sperlings rented the place.

To maintain residence on their homestead, Bertha, twelve years of age, and her brother, stayed at the sod house. They secured water from washouts, half a mile away. A woman with two children whose

husband was away working, lived half a mile from the Sperling soddie, so there was visiting back and forth. Once a week Mr. Sperling and an older son came over with food and clean clothes, always cautioning the children about fire. They went to bed and rose with the sun. Their cooking was done in an iron kettle over a sod pit.

Only the two youngest of the Sperling children attended school. The mother taught the children at home in both German and English. Mrs. Vasholz, Bertha, uses both languages with precision. The mother made shoes with wooden soles and leather straps which were worn with knit stockings in the winter.

When he was able to build, her father hauled lumber from St. Paul. Mail at first was brought by a man on horseback to Jericho post office once in two weeks.

At the age of 17, Bertha Sperling was married to Julius Polenz, whose family had bought railroad land in 29-13-14, after coming from Omaha with a colony of land-seekers. When she had butter to sell, she walked seventeen miles to Loup City, since there was no Ravenna until 1884. To save her shoes, she walked barefoot until she neared town. Often there was no market for her good, home-made butter, even at 5c a pound. Her husband took both a homestead and timber claim. Ten acres of cottonwoods were first set out in the fall, when the trees were about four feet high. (Interview, Mrs. Bertha S. Polenz Vasholz, Stanton, February 16, 1946).

I. M. Polski, his wife, fifteen months old baby girl and his brother, came to Sherman County in 1879, attracted by advertisements in a Chicago Polish newspaper concerning low-priced Burlington Railroad land. They had about \$600 in cash, so decided to homestead. Their investment, after paying filing fees on a homestead (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 6-13-14) and a timber claim, (Sept. 4, 1879), was a team of horses, a wagon, household goods, and lumber sufficient to build a house with an upstairs room and summer kitchen. Material and supplies were hauled from Kearney. This left about \$50 in cash.

The first season sod corn was planted; but immigrants coming through took much of it for provisions. The next year, corn, wheat and oats were planted. The first two years yielded no more than a living.

The homestead was two miles from the Paris postoffice established in 1884. Mr. Charles French drove the mail and stage route, which circled the hills. Grass was so high that firebreaks were built. When the four-foot high blue-stem caught fire, everyone turned out to fight it. Wet gunny-sacks were used to beat along the edge; if this means failed, a counter-fire was started, beating at the edge away from the first fire. When the new fire met the old, the blaze subsided.

Twelve hundred trees were planted on the timber claim, including five acres of ash trees. The ash seedlings, which cost \$1.25 per thousand, were cultivated five times. Some box-elder, cottonwood, and poplar cuttings were planted, but the ash did best. Box-elder seeds also were planted.

Mr. Polski dug the first well on the homestead. Four or five feet in diameter, it was dug by one man working at the bottom with

space or shovel, shovelling dirt into a box which was hauled with a pulley, to be taken off by a man at the surface. When down about 70 or 80 feet, a sandstone rock about twenty feet thick, had to be chopped with an ax. Once as the box was coming down, it became loose, sounding like a train coming down the well. Mr. Polski managed to shove it aside with the spade.

When a windmill was bought, it was an Eclipse mill because the agent stressed the fact that the railroad companies used Eclipse mills. Of course, the mill once blew down in a storm.

At first there were no dust storms, but during the dry years, Russian thistles came. Farmers feared the country would be ruined. A law was passed that road overseers must destroy them if the farmer did not. The expense of destroying them was charged to the owner.

The family got along with out a doctor as much as possible, since Loup City or Ravenna were the closest towns. They attended church at Paplin until Loup City had a Catholic Church. (Letters from I. M. Polski to MJO, May 5, 1938; Febr. 3, 1939; interview recorded by R. H. Mathew, May 27, 1935).

When the August Jung family with Mrs. Jung's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Kuehnz, and August's brother Herman, came from Indiana in 1873, they sought relief from the ague-plagued Indiana lowlands. Herman Fiebig, Jung's brother-in-law, and the August Reiman family also came at this time. In the car with the household goods were a team belonging to Mr. Kuehnz, three cows, and 15 or 20 chickens. The grandfather rode in the freight car to care for the livestock.

The Kuehnz's, Mrs. Jung and her two children, Pauline and Herman, moved into a sod dug-out on Oak Creek, while the Jung brothers remained in Grand Island, where they worked for a friend, Mr. Shuler. August Jung had visited the Shuler's in 1872, returned to Indiana, but decided to live in Nebraska because of his health.

Since there was no well at the dug-out, the Jungs at first hauled water from a neighbor. Later they located in the Middle Loup Valley, (8-16-14), where it was easier to dig a well. The men often slept in the stable to guard a mule-team, greatly coveted by bands of roving Indians.

Mrs. August Jung found the lack of a market most discouraging. When she had carried 18 pounds of butter and 10 dozen eggs to Loup City, Miss Ellen Baillie, who with her brother William ran a store and hotel, told Mrs. Jung she was overstocked. Mrs. Jung, who sewed by hand for her three children, wanted some thread, so received a spool of white thread off which Miss Baillie had used a little. The butter brought 25 cents worth of sugar. To get rid of butter, Peter Truelsen told Mrs. Jung to make it without salt and he would buy it for axle grease.

For fuel, the Jungs used huge cedar logs found along Oak Creek, the result of a disastrous fire before their arrival. The father usually hauled a little coal from Grand Island so they did not often burn cornstalks or corn, as many of the neighbors did. One year when

crops failed, Mr. Jung was paid by Col. J. M. Young, for whom he worked, in wheat and rye. He took the grain to Grand Island where it was ground into flour, then returned to Grand Island to work that winter for the Shulers.

The first school Pauline Jung attended in District 10 was held in the sod house of her bachelor uncle Herman. It was succeeded by a log house, also used for school. The sod roof harbored mice, which distracted the attention of the pupils when running along the wooden rafters.

The experiences of the William Henry Hayes family were described by a daughter, Mrs. R. H. Tusler, in a letter written in 1938. (Mr. Tusler was a nephew of John Needham).

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hayes and family, including a three months old daughter, Nina (later Mrs. J. F. Nicolson), left LeSeur, Minnesota early in May for Kansas. They met so many immigrant wagons returning from Kansas that they decided to go west. They stopped off in Sherman County, staying the first winter with Mr. Abel Gates and his two sons, who lived on the place known as the Rentfrow place, near Austin.

Next spring they got a piece of land with a dugout on it. Here they got along until father could "lay up" a sod house. This was about a half mile from the Rose Valley School (Dist. No. 28). Later they moved to land in 2-14-14.

There were nine in the family, including mother's sister, Mary Ann, who had come with them. I don't see how mother got along. There wasn't much to buy; I remember that Mr. W. H. Stephens had a little store where we used to buy groceries. Mother taught a three month's term of school in her own house. Ed Dunlap was the only scholar besides her own children and her sister Mary Ann.

My father's brother sold his "eighty" to my father in 1887.

The first settlers of Sherman County, many of them, had lived through the hardships of the Civil War, which had prepared them for the rigors of pioneer life. Mrs. Naomi Criss and her sister, Mrs. Haney, with some assistance, had butchered a beef on their Missouri farm while their husbands were in service. A Mrs. Chapman had accompanied her husband the four years of the war, trapping, cooking and nursing.

One could not duplicate the experience of the George Hoovers, who arrived in 1876 to live in Loup City for nearly a year. Mr. Hoover ran a carriage repair shop, while his wife baked bread and biscuit to sell to neighbors and travelers. Next Mr. Hoover bought a quarter section and farmed. George, the eldest son, drove the "header" box while his father stacked. A wagon load of potatoes hauled to Kearney brought only \$5. The family burned corn in the winter. In 1880 they returned to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where Mr. Hoover entered the carriage trade. From there they went to Hollywood, where land investments made them wealthy. Yet the memory of pioneer experiences led them to revisit Loup City, and to welcome Sherman County friends visiting in southern California. (Ruby D. Charlton, April, 1949).

The experiences of John S. Needham and his brother E. B. were more colorful than those of the average pioneer. John Needham's story

was the favorite of Loup City boys for years, because it was part of a picturesque and historical movement.

The parents of the brothers had migrated from Putnam (now Bureau) County, Illinois, to Wisconsin, in 1837. From Wisconsin territory they went to Mankato, Minnesota. They were there during the Spirit Lake Massacre. The eldest son, Anthony, was a "Forty-Niner".

Despite the ill-health of Anthony, a result of his work in the gold fields, E. B. went to California in 1861. His route was by way of New York and the Isthmus of Panama. After two years in California, he had returned to Dane County, Wisconsin, planning to join the Union army at Madison. Both he and his brother, John S. were rejected "on account of stature." (They were not tall).

When they arranged to go to the gold fields of southwest Montana, they were obliged to secure permission from the governor to leave the State of Wisconsin, since the war was on. Virginia City, at that time the capital of Montana territory, in the gold-mining region, was their destination.

By the last of March, 1864, they were on their way with an Overland Wagon Train, consisting of 217 men, four women and two children. There were three subdivisions, each led by a well-known scout. E. B. Needham, his wife and four year old daughter were with the second division led by John M. Jacobs. Mr. Jacob's daughter was the other child. John M. Bozeman was with the "lead" division, while the famous scout, Jim Bridger, was with the third and last.

The Needhams had a new wagon, which had cost \$60. John S. also had his favorite riding pony, which mysteriously disappeared one night when Indians were near camp. He saw it next morning, but believing in "safety first", went on without trying to recover it.

Travel was along the main California Trail. Bozeman and Jacobs had both spent some time around the Montana gold fields and were anxious to find a more direct route to Virginia City. They discussed with Bridger the matter of starting a short cut after passing Fort Laramie on the North Platte River. Bridger thought it useless and would not agree.

Bozeman and Jacobs, undaunted, and with the confidence of their people, left the main California Trail about fifty miles beyond Fort Laramie. They struck northwest, blazing a new trail through the Big Horn Valley up the Yellowstone River to the present site of Livingston, Montana. After 101 days of travel, they reached Alder Gulch, Montana, on Sunday, July 10. The new route, along the Gallatin Valley, was sometimes called the "Jacobs-Bozeman Cutoff", or the "Bozeman Road."

On the trip there were frequent Indian scares, but no loss of life on that score. Near the present site of Thermopolis, Wyoming, an epidemic of diphtheria broke out. There were doctors in the group, but little was known of the control of disease. One of the fatalities was the little daughter of E. B. Needham, who died June 11, 1864, east of the Big Horn River.

Oriel was calling for her Uncle John the night she died. It was my turn to stand guard, but several men offered to take my place, so I could be with her.

The train drove on a half day, crossed the Big Horn, and on its west side buried the child, with others who succumbed about the same time. Board markers were set up over the graves.

By Christmas they were in Helena, Montana. Provisions were costly: flour, \$1.25 per pound; potatoes, \$40 a bushel; eggs, \$2.60 per dozen; and a package of soda, \$2.50. An ounce of gold was a fair day's earnings from mining. It brought \$18 but with the high cost of living, the ever-old problem of saving something from earnings was as difficult as ever.

E. B. Needham and his wife returned east with a team and wagon, reaching Omaha November 22, 1865. They located at Des Moines; where Mr. Needham farmed while his wife taught school. John S. remained at the mines until the fall of 1866. Following an attack of mountain fever he became homesick, so freighted to Fort Benton, where he took a boat as far as Sioux City. Here he took the stage for Boone, Iowa, at that time the end of the railroad.

After visiting his old home in Wisconsin, he returned to Boone County, Iowa, where he was married to Miss L. Hiddleston. He worked as a clerk in the coal mines until he and his brother, E. B., came to Sherman County in 1874. With their wives, John's daughter Gay, and a niece living with E. B.'s, the two brothers reached Clarks, Nebraska, in the spring of 1874. The men came on to Sherman County where they located timber claims and made the required plantings. John S. filed on 2-14-14 May 9, 1874, later cancelling it, as did E. B. with his entry in 12-14-16. The original sod school house for District 2 stood west of John Needham's entry. Settlers changed from one location to another, from valley to hill quarters.

E. B. Needham and his wife went to St. Paul in December 1881, to Callaway, June 1886, and to Colorado Springs in 1894.

John S. left Sherman County in 1874, returned to Boone County, Iowa, but came back to Sherman County in 1878. By that time the Austin postoffice had been established in the sod house of Oliver S. Brown. In 1880 Brown was followed by Dr. J. B. Nagelvoort (not a doctor, but a chemist), highly educated, with some money. Inexperienced in farming, he was easily "sold" on machinery in Grand Island. Near the sod house in which he lived was a large red barn. There was a road sign which read: "Austin Postoffice—Mail from all parts of the world."

Following the death of his wife and daughter, Dr. Nagelvoort left Sherman County, a distressed, disappointed man. He gave to Mrs. J. S. Needham and her niece, Mrs. Abel Gates, a large, hand-hemmed linen napkin apiece, so large that they would cover an old-fashioned center table.

John S. Needham "held on" in Sherman County during the dry nineties, when it took as much courage as when he sought out the Bozeman Cutoff in 1864. His wife did not forget some hardships, as the death of a neighbor, Orville Dunlap, in 1878, probably because of

lack of a doctor. The Needhams with the Hayes, Chapman, Ogle and Carpenter families, were leaders in school and church at Austin, promoting a Sunday School before the Austin Church was built. (Interview with John S. Needham, recorded in shorthand by his daughter, Byrdee Needham; Land Records).

Paul Heisner reported in April 8, 1915, on his early day experiences. With the family, he came from Illinois to a dugout near Sweet-water in 1877. The father's remaining capital was just \$80. Paul went to the farm of Peter Truelsen in the Middle Loup Valley. It was arranged that Paul was to work for Mr. Truelsen for \$9 per month. When his father started home, Mr. Truelsen had a butchered hog placed in his wagon, for he sensed the hardships of the Heisners. The father rented ten acres of land of Reverend Robert Hodges. Paul stayed with the Truelsen's for several years.

Mrs. D. H. Watson, granddaughter of John R. Baker, Sherman County pioneer, writes of her early life (November 27, 1951, age 82 years).

Our first schoolhouse at Cedarville, the pioneer postoffice east of Litchfield, was a small sod building with homemade seats and desks. It was a quarter of a mile north of the E. S. Gowin ranch. J. T. Campbell, who came from Vermont, started a store near Cedarville and became the postmaster. Mail was carried from Loup City three times a week by a boy on horseback. He returned the same day.

With talk of the railroad, Mr. Campbell moved his store and the postoffice with it, to Litchfield in 1885.

In the sod schoolhouse Mrs. S. C. Hollister (mother of Mrs. Watson), organized the first Sunday School. A short time later church services were held by the Rev. R. C. Hardin. Out of these services came the Methodist Church of Litchfield.

Our Christmas entertainments were fine. We would decorate a plain box-elder tree with popcorn strung on cord, also cranberries strung, and applies tied to the small limbs. Candles were clamped on and when the presents were added, we had a grand time.

The program was wonderful, music, lovely singing, and recitations. After the presents had been distributed the men would make a table by putting long boards across the desks. Here we spread our suppers and all had a good time.

The young people organized a dancing club of perhaps thirty. When we wanted a dance some of the boys would start out in a big wagon to gather up the young people. We went to some neighbor's house, cleared a room of beds and stove, got our musician, who played an accordin, and "the dance was on."

The girls wore calico prints like the boys' shirts.

A. L. Zimmerman and his wife, nee Mary Etta Bone (a cousin of Howard Chandler Christy), left comfortable homes in Ohio in 1882, to pioneer in Nebraska.

It was bitterly cold when we arrived at Kearney, in time to take the stage which drove through Sherman County once a week. Mrs. Jim Landers and her daughter, Nina, later of Arcadia, were also driving to Loup City on the stage, and Nina had her feet frozen. A stop was made at a little sod home to thaw the frozen feet by putting them in a bucket of cold water. Arriving next day at the George Zimmerman home, A. L. Zimmerman's remained until their own little soddie could be com-

pleted. (Mrs. Zimmerman told of riding on the floor of the wagon, to escape dust. Head covered, she and her husband sang "Beulah Land"). At the time the ground was frozen so hard it could not be levelled, so the first floor slanted. It took three weeks to thaw, and by then spring had come. The roof of the first home was made from the branches of a tree covered with brush and earth. A neighbor who was out of tobacco and needed money, sold the trees for a dollar. As the limbs of the tree were not very straight, some of the poles made from them "crooked up" and some "crooked down." The "down" places held little pools of water after rains. The land was all ours, homestead and tree claim, as much as we could acquire.

Our house was all in one large room, so we partitioned off a room with sheets. We brought dishes and furniture from our eastern home. I accepted a sewing machine instead of the cow my sister, Mrs. Kilpatrick, chose. Our equipment was ample for our needs, except the cook stove. That, too, cost a dollar. As it had a long crack across the top, and no legs, we set it up on a sod foundation, and it answered the purpose very well, considering that I had to turn my bread bottom side up to bake it all through and my pies had to be finished on top of the stove.

I had brought plenty of dried fruit from home, and before Mr. Zimmerman went after his bride, he had set up a chicken coop with fifteen hens. We were also lucky enough to have beans grown on the sod, but we did not own a gun. However, Mr. Zimmerman was able to gain a point over the great David of sling shot fame, for he often killed small game by throwing stones at them. The only drawback was the scarcity of stones.

Hardly were we settled when the spring rains began. All that summer a cloud in the west was the signal for hurried preparation to prevent a soaking in the night. When the rain did come, we put a piece of oilcloth over the bed as far as it would reach, and by hoisting a big, old-fashioned umbrella, were as snug as two bugs in a rug. Sometimes we sang "Home, Sweet Home," "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand," and other favorites. When the water began to run off the umbrella we had to get up to stack the bedding in the middle of the bed under the oil cloth. When we were able to afford a floor for our cabin, we decided to buy an organ instead. But before next summer's rains came, we had a board roof. Soon we had a better home with four rooms, lathed and plastered, and then we had lots of company. Blessings and babies came to us, and we felt the pleasure and satisfaction enjoyed by all the pioneers who listened to the call of the wild lonely land, which has become our own great State of Nebraska. (Written for Woman's Unity Club, February, 1931).

In 1883, Gale Smith, nine years old, accompanied by her mother and older sister, Mabel, arrived at Kearney, Nebraska, then a small town with board sidewalks. They were met at the station by the father, Moses H. Smith, and older brother, Emerson A. Smith, who had preceded them to make arrangements for their future home in Sherman County. Mrs. Gale Smith Depew (Mrs. J. I.) wrote in 1931 for the Unity Club:

We stopped at the hotel, a small wooden shack with stairs up the outside, and next day journeyed on to Sid Hollister's, eight miles northeast of Litchfield.

The Hollisters had a large, comfortable sod house of four rooms, and were very hospitable, as were most of the people of early days, their lonely lives causing them to enjoy the company of travellers who came their way. The next night we

reached the home of John Papendick, who had two rooms in his house, one sod and one frame. We settled down there for a month, living in the sod room. My sister, Mabel, afterwards married John Papendick. During this time, my father, Moses Smith, secured an old man, named Brigham Young, to dig a well for us. The well was one hundred forty feet deep, and was excavated with great difficulty, as considerable rock was encountered. While the well was being dug a large frame barn was erected into which we moved and lived the rest of the summer. There were large cracks in the roof of the barn and before it was finished a driving rain fell, coming down on us in torrents. The hired man held a big, old-fashioned umbrella over me and my father wrapped himself in a rubber army blanket, but poor mother, regardless of self, hastened to cover the organ and save other precious treasures from ruin. Strange to say, no one thought of crawling under the table.

The appearance of the country was very striking indeed at that time, as it had been burned black in every direction by prairie fires. The great black silhouettes formed by the hills and canyons were awe-inspiring, almost terrible, suggesting the wrath of God. Afterwards, in summer, portions of green alternated with spots of native desert.

Before winter came, father built what we called a "dug-out" on the side of the hill, one large room with an attic above, part cave and part sod walls, with a board front, two windows and a door. Here we lived very comfortably for about two years, previous to the building of our permanent home.

At this time we never saw any mice or rats but fleas seemed to be indigenous to the country, and "prairie itch" was enjoyed by all. We took sulphur and molasses for the prairie itch, which was supposed to be caused by the change of climate. Father complained one day that his work in the hayfield was delayed because he had to stop his mowing machine often to empty the fleas out of his boots. (The mowing machine was afterwards one of the relics at Jenner's Park). A neighbor had a board floor in his sod house, but was obliged to take it up because he could fight fleas better on the ground. I used to open my bed at night, carefully scatter flea powder between the sheets and step into bed after discarding all my clothing. It was hard to tell which caused the greater irritation, the itch or the flea powder, or to know which was which.

There were few horse teams; most people drove oxen. But I drove a big black shepherd dog, attached to a small cart, up hills and down canyons, gathering sunflowers, weed roots, and buffalo chips for fuel. Sometimes the dog upset my calculations by chasing a jackrabbit or taking a run on his own account. I was reminded by Mr. A. L. Zimmerman of the time my dog ran away and upset me, so evidently he had at some time witnessed this discomfiture. Afterwards, as I grew older, father provided an old Indian pony and a larger two-wheeled cart. The pony stopped to drink out of every mudhole, and each time I met anyone paused politely to give me an opportunity to visit a little while. No amount of dissuasion did any good; he always remained socially inclined.

When I took music lessons in Litchfield I harnessed the pony to the cart and drove in. Usually I took all day to go there and back with the pony, allowing an hour for the lesson. I took my lunch along, generally boiled eggs and bread and butter, with occasional delicacies as sheep sorrel or vinegar pie and barber sauce.

In the way of fruit we had plum butter and wild grape jelly in plenty. There were a few wild gooseberries, many choke

cherries, and if you had teeth strong enough to grind the seeds, you could have grape pie. Pumpkin pie was a matter of course when milk and eggs were abundant.

All women those days wore calico. Even those who did have silk dresses tucked them away in the chest, having a sense of the fitness of things, and also a delicacy of feeling for others. So feminine envy and jealousies were few.

There was no school in our neighborhood the first three years, so my mother taught me from books we had, and we read the Sherman County Times. The first schoolhouse, District No. 55, located two miles from our home, was sod with crude board benches, but we had a black board. My pony came in very handy at that time, as the distance was too far to walk. Fuel was a very important item, as it took three days to drive the forty-five miles (to Kearney) and back for a load of coal. Many burned corn stalks after the first crop of corn, and later when corn was abundant and prices low, burned the corn itself. It made a clean, hot fire.

We had plenty of meat even at the start, for young prairie chickens were abundant and so were rabbits. There were even a few deer.

On the first Fourth of July (1883) a few neighbors dropped in to help celebrate. The boys went to town and managed to secure a little ice so we had ice cream. The importance of this occasion, seemed to call for a little dignified formality. My father was asked to make a speech, which he did.

In the summer and autumn the gorgeous sunflowers and many other wild flowers made the county beautiful. The wild wind and hail storms of summer and the cruel blizzards of winter did not daunt us. Life was often difficult and our sympathies were strained to the utmost. I still remember our fright when a poor crazy man came to our home when mother and I were alone. He was armed with a gun, and the situation was dangerous, but we managed to send for Joe Pedler who was Sherman County Sheriff, and the poor fellow was taken into custody.

We were saddened, too, by a tragedy in our neighborhood when a young man shot at his father, intending to kill him. When the young man did not succeed, he committed suicide. His casket brought from Grand Island, did not arrive in time for the funeral services and he was buried late. Lacking a minister, a neighbor, Mr. Converse, read scripture and made a prayer. The two Converse daughters, Genevieve and Niema, sang a beautiful duet.

There were many disappointments and many sacrifices to bear, but after all life was good. We were builders; we meant something to the State. We laid foundations which were lasting.

Kate Moon Main's Snake Story: (Unity Club Magazine, 1931).

There were dangerous episodes in the lives of pioneers. Walter Moon, my father, on his first visit to Sherman County, fought a wounded deer and nearly lost his life. It was a case of hands versus horns, and hands conquered. (George Benschoter says that Mr. Moon, wanting to take deer meat back to Iowa at Christmas time, shot the deer but did not kill it. Lacking another bullet, he tangled with the deer, and although he received a wound, made his trip to Iowa with a haunch of venison). My mother and sister, Gay, fought a prairie fire that almost overcame them, but extinguished the flames and saved the home.

My experience with a rattlesnake was unforgettable. When father was away from home for the day, my mother and sister went across to the pasture where the cows were picketed to do

the evening milking, leaving me with my baby sister, Effie, who was asleep. I was told to carry grain out to the stable feed boxes, and pull down some hay into the mangers for the horses.

The grain was stored in the northeast bedroom of the house, at that time unfinished and without a floor. I took my pail and went into the room for the grain. It was light enough for me to see plainly a huge rattlesnake coiled across the top of a grain sack under the open window.

My father had taught us always to kill snakes, never allow one to escape. "Get a long stick or hoe and kill every snake you see," he said.

There was no long stick or hoe in the house. If I went to the stable to get one, the rattler might escape. It was asleep, its head lying over the coils of its body. What if it should find its way into the house, where my baby sister was just learning to walk?

In the kitchen was the bread knife, sharp and effective. Tip-toeing into the kitchen, I seized it, came back to the bedroom, breathed a little prayer for help, and struck with all my might. There was a great flapping and threshing of rattlesnake coils as I struck desperately with the knife. When it was over, a badly mutilated reptile lay on the ground. My mother found me sobbing on the kitchen floor.

When my father returned, he said I should have had better sense than to do such a thing. But I knew he thought I had been brave, so I was comforted.

When the W. T. (Taylor) and George Gibson families from Pennsylvania, joined their cousin Charles on homesteads near present-day Litchfield, the reactions of the two wives were very different. Mrs. Taylor Gibson, "Aunt Mollie," liked the country, despite the hardships. Her husband came to Loup City for employment at his carpenter's trade, while his wife remained on the farmstead with their small daughter, Jennie (Mrs. S. E. Galloway). Their sod house had a frame roof, but later an addition, dug partly in the hillside, with a sod roof, was built. Mrs. Mollie Gibson used it as a kitchen, but more important, as a refuge when thunderstorms occurred, for the one thing she disliked was thunderstorms.

Mrs. George Gibson disliked the new country, and perhaps with good reason. She lost two small children who developed what was called at the time "summer complaint," and later two more from diphtheria. This malady was contracted when the children tumbled on the coat which a mail carrier had laid behind the stove while he ate a meal at the George Gibson home. He had not mentioned that there was diphtheria at his own home. George Gibson sold his homestead to Kate Brewer and came to Loup City, entering a furniture and undertaking establishment.

Taylor Gibson's first home in Loup City was near the school house in the west part of town, north of the present Keystone Lumber Company yards. One afternoon as Mrs. Taylor Gibson and her sister-in-law sat visiting, Mrs. George Gibson suddenly gave a scream, snatched up her baby, and dashed to the bedroom. Mrs. Taylor Gibson then discovered a very tall Indian standing in the room. "You old fool, what do you want?" she demanded.

"Squaw scared?" asked the Indian, then made known his desire to have a loaf of her bread. She had none to sell, so told him to come some other time. He was on his way up the river to look at his traps. He had undoubtedly learned of her bread from the men who drove herds of cattle and horses through the country up the Loup Valley, for Mrs. Gibson had

agreed to bake for the drivers. On one occasion she baked all night long, using up an entire sack of flour. Her rule was to get enough to pay for two sacks of flour from the baking of one sack. (Interview, Mrs. S. E. Galloway, May 2, 1951).

Mr. William Lewandowski's experience is an example of what the immigrant could accomplish in Sherman County. When he was eleven years old, in 1880, he came to Nebraska. His father was a cripple. William had studied German in schools in German Poland for five years, but found English a more difficult language. He mastered it with the aid of a Polish-English dictionary.

The family lived on the county line, sometimes in Howard and sometimes in Sherman County. William "worked out" for farmers in the summer and attended district school in the winter. Later he farmed on Oak Creek, acquiring 240 acres of land, 80 acres in Logan Township and 160 acres in Oak Creek Township. He worked with carpenters building improvements for his father, until he became his own carpenter. Cabinet work in his home in Loup City attests his skill.

At first Mr. Lewandowski, frequently called upon to act as interpreter, was embarrassed to speak English, but in time he learned that he rated well as an interpreter. He acquired a teacher's certificate, and in 1921-22, taught a school on Oak Creek, District No. 5, a three months term one winter, and six months the next. (Interview, William Lewandowski, May 13, 1951).

The Rev. Leslie F. Sweetland wrote in 1948 of his father's coming to Sherman County:

My father Stephen N. Sweetland came to Loup City in the Spring of 1879. He met the father of Ed Taylor on the immigrant train (B&M) to Nebraska. The trip from New York took about a week. He came to Loup City from Kearney by stage—he said Mr. Charles French was the stagedriver.

My father took a homestead in the Wiggle Creek neighborhood. (SW $\frac{1}{4}$, 14-14-15). My mother, Lucinda Goodwin, came with her mother, brothers, and sisters from Nashua, Iowa, to the Wiggle Creek neighborhood in 1882. My parents were married in 1885 and began housekeeping in a sod house.

"Getting lost" was one of the hazards of pioneer life. The experience of Mr. J. C. Fletcher, grandfather of Glen Fletcher and Mrs. Blanche Petersen, was one of the narrow escapes in Sherman County. During the winter of 1879-80, Mr. Fletcher with his wife and children lived on a homestead five miles south of Loup City, on the west side of the river. (8-14-14).

When he hunted, Mr. Fletcher usually took one of his older sons with him. Since there were no landmarks such as timber or roads, the wagon would be driven to some high divide, the team tied, and the game hunt begun. When ready to return home, the hunters climbed the nearest hill, sighted the team and wagon, and then carried the game to it.

On the Saturday before Christmas, 1879, Mr. Fletcher started out alone, on foot, without any lunch, since he expected to return in a short time. Westward in the Wiggle Creek area, he killed a deer. Having been away longer than he planned, he left the carcass with a cartridge on it to keep the wolves away. Soon it began to storm and

grow colder. Mr. Fletcher found that he was travelling in a circle, after coming back to the starting place a second time.

At home, his sons and some of the neighbors began a search in late afternoon, but as the drifting snow hid all tracks, they returned home. Next morning the whole neighborhood was astir. In the group were the Fletcher sons, C. W., Milt., W. S. and S. C., Dr. N. L. Talbot, John Swain, Sam Johns and two boys, J. L. Hawk, D. C. Grow, J. M. Snyder, Ira King, Frank Black, and S. N. Sweetland. Judge Wall with his two hounds and more than a dozen Loup Cityites joined in the search.

With the canyons now filled with snow, the groups searched all day. Only the deer carcass was found. That night they gave up the search. Late that night, after chores were done, two men drove into the Fletcher yard. Instead of two strangers, it was S. C. Hobart of Clear Creek, with their father, who was suffering only from hunger.

Mr. Fletcher had finally followed a "draw", hoping to strike the Loup Valley, or some house where he could get his bearings. Instead of going east, he had gone west, and at day-break came out on Clear Creek, at the sod house of Mr. Hobart. Because of drifts, it had been necessary for Mr. Hobart to drive south to Sweetwater, then take the old Kearney stage line, in order to reach Mr. Fletcher's home. To avoid lying down to sleep, which would have meant freezing to death, Mr. Fletcher had rubbed his face with snow and thus kept awake. This veteran of the Civil War had faced death on the prairie as well as when he was with John A. Rawlins, General Grant's Chief-of-Staff. (Nebraska Record, Sept., 1915).

The J. R. Lang's of Litchfield celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in January, 1935. At that time Mr. Lang recalled the Zuloff mill located on the Lang homestead, "Ves" Brewer's blacksmith shop on the north, and the Lang store, which freighted supplies from Kearney until 1886. Subsequently his interviews with George L. Jackson were reported in the Litchfield Monitor:

Lawrence Ketchum helped locate the government corners of the homestead chosen. On it we had a dug-out 12x14. In '75 and '76 the buffalo grass, and blue-stem in the valleys, was as high as the horses' backs. There were few weeds, but bunch grass, wire grass, and buck (did this mean buffalo?) berries.

The trees were cottonwood, elm, oak, hackberry, ash, boxelder, and cedar. Grasshoppers came in '74, '75, '76; there were bedbugs in the cottonwood trees; fleas; prairie dogs and snakes; bobcats, coyotes, and skunks. Also there were beaver, mink, otter, muskrat, deer, antelope, and elk. A Federal patrolman named Bell looked after the timber on government land.

J. R. Lang deeded George Zuloff and John Morgan ten acres to locate a mill, in 1877. Lang opened a store for the convenience of mill patrons. The first load of merchandise from Kearney was all sold the first day. In the second load was a dozen pair of ladies' shoes. One customer bought nine large-sized pairs.

Other merchandise stocked was Old Style chewing tobacco; and J. T.; 400 pounds of sundried fruit which sold for 6-8c a pound; evaporated fruit was 12½c; sugar, 5c; smoked bacon was carried. In the hardware department lassoes, spades, pickets, grain sacks, picket pins, nails, files, cold hammers were standard. Men and boys wore boots at \$3.00-\$6.00 a pair; only

dudes wore overshoes. The others wrapped gunnysacks around their boots. Men and boys wore Scotch caps. Butter was handled in crocks; if not sold for eating, Kearney dealers sold it to soap factories.

Two Kearney merchants, Thompson and Boderson, urged Mr. Lang to start a bank. They stated that private, personal banks didn't fail, but did when the State chartered them. These dealers did both a wholesale and retail business; in handling eggs, one fourth were broken by the time they reached Kearney.

One third of the settlers had oxen. Women walked ten miles easily; sleds were used in winter. Sorghum cane was widely grown. Three fourths of a mile north of the Lang place were the Rifle Pits, 8x12, 2 feet deep. They were grass grown, 20 feet apart, enclosed about 30 acres. Their origin was not known.

J. F. Roberts had settled northwest of Sweetwater in 1873. There was a gold scare and coal excitement near Langs . . . The first settlers were adventurous young men, footloose. The second wave of settlers were married couples. They chose hill land as well as valley. In 1885 railroad surveyors were along Muddy Creek. The Lincoln Land and Townsite Company acquired land; the right-of-way was sold for \$10.00 per acre. In 1886 the right-of-way was graded, and the Lang store moved to the new town of Litchfield. In 1887 Mr. Lang first tried out alfalfa, which he had seen in California. (Monitor, July 19, Aug. 2, 1935).

The first elevator in Litchfield was built in 1886. Sam Robinson was the manager. (Febr. 27, 1937). Coal was also handled.

That Mr. Lang underwent many hazards in his early years is proved by an item which appeared in the Platte Valley Independent, Vol. II, Sept. 6, 1879; (publ. at Grand Island):

James Lang of Sherman County was bitten on the leg by a rattlesnake last week. At last account he was getting along nicely, and it was thought he would recover.

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CHAPTER II

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

1. Trails and Roads

The earliest trails or road followed by the settlers were chosen for their convenience and ease in travel. There is mention of an Indian trail along Oak Creek followed by the first comers. From Grand Island, the course of the Middle Loup River was followed. It was forded south of Loup City, in the vicinity of the present day bridge, or at any other spot convenient for the traveler.

Later, there were perhaps four fairly well-defined trails in Sherman County. On the west side, along Clear Creek, a trail from Custer County of today crossed the Creek below the Gowin place southwest of Litchfield, then proceeded south to the South Loup near Pleasanton, and on to Kearney.

The old stage line from Kearney to Loup City was the best defined. In 1874, it made stops at McGee's and Morse's Ranch. If these were overnight stops, accommodations were simple. There was a long sod barn for the shelter of teams. The human beings were supposed to carry their own bedding which they unrolled, oftenest on the floor. They often carried their own food, buying only coffee or milk. This was true of the stop at Paris, as Mrs. M. E. Plantz remembers it. The ranches, Snyder's and Fuller's, were stopping places. The road might skirt the foot of a hill, or take the higher ground to avoid a draw. This Kearney Stage route is much the same as the road today, past the Wiggle Creek schoolhouse, (with a hill near there first graded privately by J. M. Snyder) past Ravenna to Kearney.

The third trail from Grand Island followed the course of the Middle Loup on its east side. However, it turned north above the site of the Hawk schoolhouse, to the river fording and into Loup City.

The fourth well-defined trail was the one through the hills from St. Paul to Loup City. It was not the direct route of highway 92, but chose either the "draw" or the hillside, as suited the wagons and teams. It is said that the B & M railroad, in its anxiety to construct a branch line into Loup City, after the Union Pacific began building from St. Paul, followed this wagon trail, which may account for its erratic winding. (Information on trails from C. G. Snyder, May 8, 1951).

Certain farm homes became regular stopping places, their accommodations being advertised by word of mouth. Thus the W. H. Stephens and Wm. Young homes on the east side of the river sheltered an untold number of travelers in early years.

Traces of the old wagon roads survived in some places, because of the width of the wheels of the wagons. One could be seen along Dead Horse, in Jenner's Park until the course of the creek was changed.

A short cut to the Black Hills during the gold rush of 1876 crossed

northwest Sherman County. Traces of the wagon ruts were visible near Cole Creek on the Charlton land as late as 1915.

2. Roads and Bridges

The first necessity of the newly organized county was roads and bridges. Following an Indian or buffalo trail on the east side of the Middle Loup River, up Oak Creek, and along the joining of Muddy and Clear Creeks, afforded three natural routes into the county.

To cross the river, until bridges were built, meant "fording". This operation required skillful loading and expert handling of horses or oxen. H. M. Humes and wife "hallooeed" until Mr. W. H. Stephens and his neighbor, Charles Webster, came to his assistance.

If the load was of extreme weight, it was ferried across the river by boat, in the '70's, (Times, 1937), until the first bridge across the Middle Loup, south of town, was built in 1875.

First recorded action concerning roads, shows that the commissioners divided the county into three road districts on July 7, 1873. They also voted \$16,000 in bonds to be spent for a bridge across the Middle Loup, one across Oak Creek, "and others". A bridge tax of 3 mills was levied. (Comm. Rec. I. p. 1).

To construct the river bridge, south of Loup City, M. A. Hartley delivered 1850 feet of cedar piling, to be paid for in bonds, at the rate of \$1.25 per foot. O. B. Smith was the builder of the first river bridge, 670 feet long. He was paid in warrants. J. W. Harkins agreed to build the Oak Creek bridge at \$22 per foot, (including materials), and other bridges until \$4,000 was exhausted. (Ibid. pp. 2, 11). The commissioners agreed to pay one half the expense of a bridge across McGee's Creek if this bridge was located 50 feet west of one never used. Walter Moon built a bridge across Wiggle Creek and one across Dead Horse.

In August, 1874, Mr. Moon asked for a bridge across Moon Creek, on the west side of the river. The material left from the Dead Horse bridge was to be used for a bridge across Hartley Creek (this may have been Hayes Creek).

The south river bridge underwent extensive repairs in 1881. The load limit across the bridge in May, 1883, was 10 head of livestock, 50 horses, or 100 sheep. (Ibid. May 22, 1883). Since St. Paul had the railroad, Lupton and Wilson hauled bridge material from St. Paul. In November, 1883, A. W. Sigourney was employed to repair the bridge. In April, 1885, there was a levy to construct defenses on the north side of the bridge.

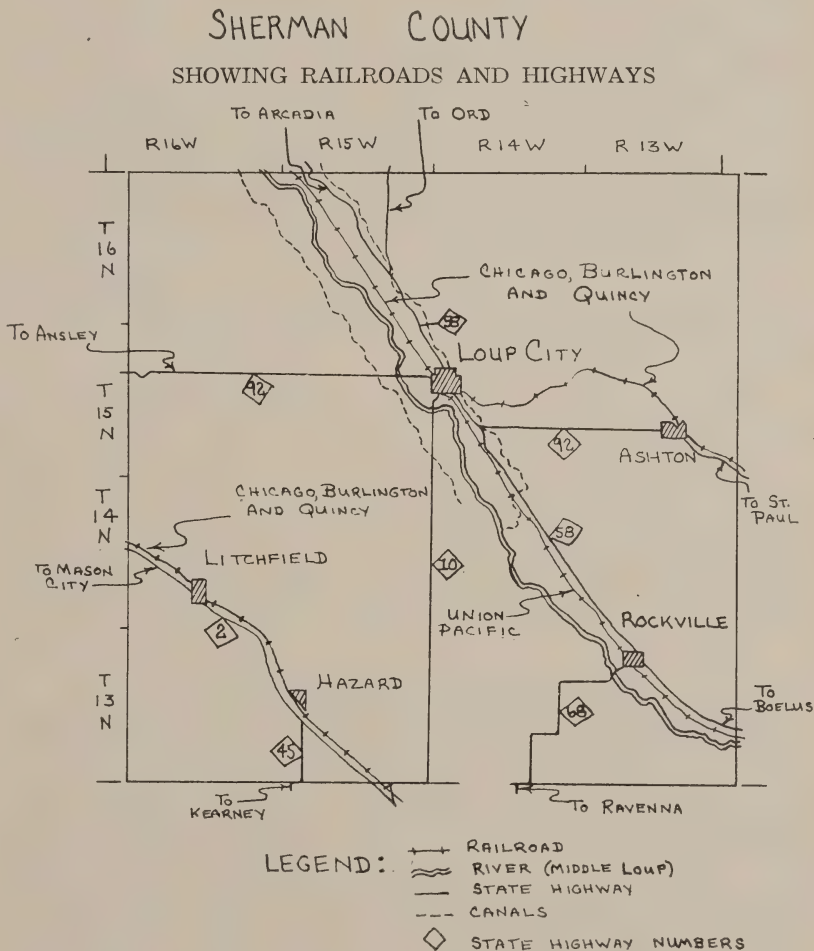
Residents near Rockville asked for a bridge across the Middle Loup in 1886. The commissioners granted \$1,500 for that purpose, with the residents donating labor. (Comm. Rec. II p. 18).

Meanwhile in 1886 the south river bridge had been partly swept away by a flood. The county granted a contract to John F. Swain to operate a ferry boat to carry teams and passengers. The small boat was built at a cost of \$14.05 (Comm. Rec. II p. 161). Swain's pay was \$1.50 per day, charging 10 cents for a trip. Mr. George Benschoter states that a rope was stretched from bank to bank, with the boat

attached by means of pulleys. When the water went down the boat landed on a sandbar. It served until the bridge was repaired.

It is recorded that on June 15, 1888, Litchfield was given one span of the old Middle Loup bridge for a bridge across Muddy Creek, if the residents did the work. Lower Clear Creek also asked for a section.

The first bridge across the river west of Loup City was built in 1892. This bridge underwent repairs in November, 1898. (Sup. Rec.



IV, p. 191). That year one thousand feet of county bridge lumber had been stolen from the south side of the Middle Loup River.

Austin secured a bridge in 1906, (Sup. Rec. V, p. 87) and in 1907, a steel bridge was built across the river at Rockville, with the steel spans 120 feet in length. A great controversy arose concerning payment of the bridge builder, W. T. Gibson. A special act of the state

legislature authorized payment, but it was delayed because of technicalities.

The Standard Bridge Company, Robert L. Drake, was now building county bridges. One of steel was built south of Loup City across the river in 1909; and west of town in 1912. No state aid was forthcoming when steel bridges at Loup City and Rockville were repaired in 1912. Creosoted blocks surfaced the floors of the bridges in 1917. Following the flood of 1947, the bridge at Austin was not repaired. McAlpine had given up its bridge in 1898, when it was torn down and rebuilt at Wiggle Creek.

After 1921, as the state highway system developed, state aid for roads and bridges was forthcoming.

In 1951, there are three overhead steel bridges in Sherman County, two at Loup City and one at Rockville. There are two hard-surfaced federal aid highways, No. 92, west from Loup City and No. 2, and five state highways, Nos. 10, 68, 58, 45, and 100. (Information furnished by County Surveyor Moritz, March 2, 1951).

Road-building, the laying out of and vacating of roads, and ensuing complications, consumed a great deal of time of the county board. It was sometimes necessary for the entire board to view a location. Today there are 37 road districts.

Sherman County had both sand and clay, and some gravel, so that material for ordinary roads was at hand. There are 31.7 miles of hard-surfaced road, 184 miles of gravelled, and 845 miles of "open" dirt roads. The great amount of machinery available to county road workers is a contrast to the first plow purchased for road grading. (County Surveyor Moritz, March 23, 1951).

Highway 92, the "White Way", a shortened route to Omaha, was promoted by a group of Loup Cityites, led by Dr. J. E. Bowman, A. E. Chase, A. H. Stimfig and Ronald F. Rowe.

3. Early Mail and Stage Service

Mail service seems to have begun in Sherman County on August 26, 1873, when Frank Ingram, 21-year-old Kentuckian was appointed postmaster at Loup City. He had opened a store in a little log building on Dead Horse, which also served as post office. At first mail was brought by a pony rider from Kearney, although anyone going to Grand Island called there for mail for Sherman County. John N. Dryden, afterwards prominent in Nebraska political and church circles, carried the mail for Kearney at the age of nineteen. His mount was a bronco. Rockville post office was established on December 1, 1873, with Thomas N. Johnson as postmaster. (This was a month after Mr. Johnson had resigned as county superintendent). Other post offices were established as settlement increased. (See table).

The Omaha Bee, on February 25, 1874, announced that Representative Crounse had introduced a bill providing for a mail route from Dannebrog to Loup City. June 24, the same paper stated that a mail

route would be opened between Loup City and Crowellton on the Union Pacific.

Mail service was irregular. There was no privacy in connection with mail, as the record of County Superintendent Eddy shows. He complained about making a second report for the state office in Lincoln, stating that he had given the first report to John Hardenburg, who gave it to R. W. Russell, who gave it to E. A. Atkinson, county clerk, "that he, Russell, had seen it put in a box in the post office marked E. A. Atkinson."

The United States Post Office reports that records for mail contracts for the early years are largely missing.

Regarding the Loup City and Kearney Stage, on Thursday, April 16, 1874, the Central Nebraska Press (published at Kearney) announced:

Loup City and Kearney Stage leaves Loup City Tuesdays and Fridays and arrives at Kearney at six o'clock in the evening. Leaves Kearney Junction Monday and Wednesday and arrives at Loup City at six o'clock of the same day.

Fare:

From Kearney Junction to Morse's Ranch.....	\$1.50
To McGee's Ranch.....	2.00
To Loup City.....	3.00
From Loup City to McGee's.....	1.25
To Morse's Ranch.....	2.00
To Kearney	3.00

Stage leaves Kearney from the Grand Central Hotel

Joseph R. Felt, Agent

N(ic) Harris, Propr.

Benschoter says Harris sold out to Rosseter after about six weeks. Rosseter continued until the bridges on the Sweetwater and elsewhere washed out, when he abandoned it. (Book of Facts, p. 8). Harris was supposed to have received a bonus of \$70 per month from citizens of Loup City and Kearney.

J. N. Dryden and H. B. Andrews entered into a partnership to carry the United States mail, under subcontract, from Kearney Junction to New Helena (in Custer County), also passengers, express and freight, on December 17, 1875. The headquarters were to be at Loup City (Misc. Rec. I, p. 20). Dryden and Andrews are said to have sold out to C. H. French in 1877. French continued the service from August 20, 1877 until about the time of the arrival of the Union Pacific line into Loup City. (Benschoter, Ibid., p. 8).

When Judge Matthews circulated a petition asking the authorities to establish a mail route from Kearney to Arcadia, Douglas Grove (Comstock), and New Helena, in Custer County, it was specified "via Loup City".

John N. Dryden, on July 22, 1876, petitioned the commissioners of Sherman County for a travelled highway between the south line of the county and Cedarville post office. (Misc. Rec. I, p. 132). The Central Nebraska Press, listed the arrival and departure of mails (at Kearney), on September 22, 1876, as follows:

North, Sweetwater, S. Loup, Loup City, and all points in the upper Loup Valley.

Arrives Wed. 7 p.m. Departs Thursday, 7 p.m.

Closing time, 6:45 p.m.

Charles Haney drove the first four-horse stage from Kearney to Loup City in October, 1878. At that time Loup City had a "shack" of a courthouse, the town population was less than twenty-five, and like most frontier towns was "wild and woolly." (Sherman County Times, July 14, 1938).

C. H. French hired Harvey Strong to carry the mail between Loup City and Kearney from October 8, 1878, to May 6, 1879. Two month's salary and wages was held back until a final and satisfactory settlement was made. (Misc. Rec. I, p. 45).

Announcement of Loup City mail and stage connections from St. Paul (Howard County) was made in the St. Paul Press for July 2, 1880. The regular mail for Loup City via Kelso (a rural post office) would leave St. Paul at 7 a.m.

on Tuesday and Friday, arriving at 6 p.m. the same day. On and after July 2, 1880, the regular mail for Loup City via Kelso will leave St. Paul at 7 a.m., arriving at 6 p.m. the same day. Return mail will leave Loup City every Wednesday and Saturday, arriving at St. Paul at 6 p.m. of the same day.

Passenger fare, \$3.00 for the round trip, one way \$1.75. Board and lodging may be secured at the St. Paul Boarding House for \$3.50 per week. (J. W. Wallis, the contracting carrier, boasted of a covered hack, and also owned the boarding house, "Good fare, good beds, good and easy riding hack.")

A branch of the Union Pacific, the Omaha and Republican Valley Railroad, had reached St. Paul in 1880. The time table was:

Going North, No. 15, Mixed	Going South, No. 16, Mixed
Lv. Grand Island 7:30 a.m.	Ar. Grand Island 8 a.m.
Lv. St. Libory 8:10 a.m.	Lv. St. Libory 7:15 a.m.
Ar. St. Paul 9:00 a.m.	Lv. St. Paul 6:30 a.m.

St. Paul Post Office, mails open and close as follow:

Office closes at 9:45 p.m.

Open Sundays from 5:15 to 6:15 a.m.; 8 to 9:45 p.m.

A. B. Lewis, Postmaster

(St. Paul, Press, September 17, 1880).

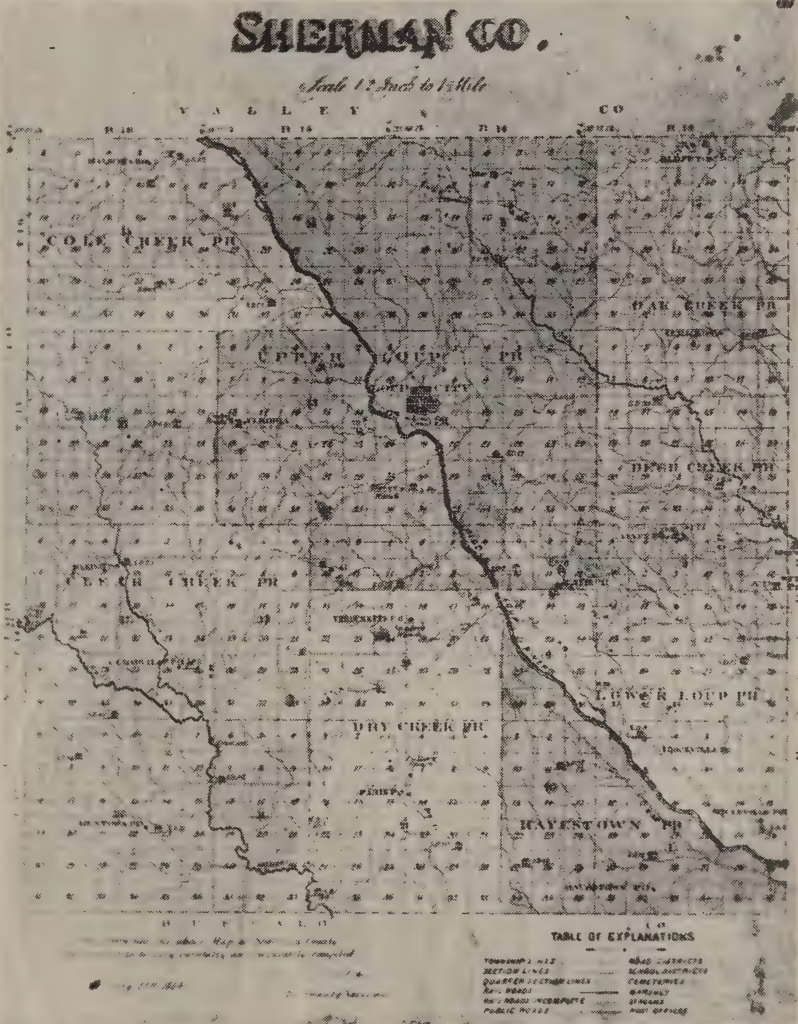
In November, 1880, the Press announced that a daily mail between Loup City and St. Paul was needed. Reasons were that the merchants of Loup City were shipping goods to St. Paul instead of hauling it over the bluffs to Kearney. Load after load of Sherman County wheat was seen on the streets of St. Paul. The roads were better than between Loup City and Kearney, and St. Paul merchants paid higher prices.

The St. Paul editor in January, 1881, made the trip with mail carrier J. Wallis via Warsaw and Kelso. This is roughly the route of the B & M Railroad. Dinner was eaten with Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, and that evening they put up at the Rosseter House, where a Grand Ball was held.

The needed daily mail must have materialized, because in March, 1881, the Loup City items in the St. Paul Press reported that the Loup

City and Grand Island mail carrier, Mr. Bassett, had a holiday in St. Paul on Sunday due to the flood, which had washed out bridges.

In April, 1881, it was reported (Ibid.), that A. G. Rysdale, popular mail carrier between Grand Island and Loup City, who has carried the mail four years, missing only seven trips, was making four trips a week, except when bridges were out. He will carry mail between St. Paul and Dannebrog free of charge. He ran a daily stage last summer.



PLAT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, 1884, SHOWING POST OFFICES
(Taken from Official Atlas of Nebraska)

C. E. Rosseter secured Route No. 34, 222 for carrying mail between St. Paul and Loup City in June, 1881. After July 1, there would be passenger service, an easy vehicle for passengers, and two trips weekly of a general, cheap and reliable express service.

In November, A. G. Rysdale, contractor on several mail routes in western Nebraska, sold his lines, including the one from St. Paul to Loup City via Dannebrog, to Robert Johnson of Runnelsburg. St. Paul would have a daily mail to Loup City, after July 1, 1882.

Mr. Rosseter, on January 5, 1882, announced a first-class hack in connection with the mail route. It left St. Paul Tuesday and Saturday at 8 a.m., with the hack from Loup City to St. Paul arriving Monday and Friday at 6 p.m.

Some travelers engaged a private conveyance. When Mr. Henry Jenner arrived in St. Paul, bound for Loup City, in February, 1883, the bus driver refused to take him because he had too much luggage. Mr. Jenner thereupon secured the services of Parle Rounds, later a resident of Arcadia. On the way to Loup City, Mr. Rounds inquired whether Mr. Jenner had ever seen a prairie fire. When Mr. Jenner replied that he had not, "Mr. Rounds stopped, lighted a match, and set fire to grass along the route, for the edification of his English passenger." (Interview, April, 1948).

Among some old records discovered in the Loup City Post Office, was the registered letter account for 1881. Some twenty pieces of registered mail had been received at Loup City that year. The English crowd had a number of "remittance men", who received money regularly from home. A mail carrier in 1885 was Ira T. Paine, who delivered mail to S. Gilchrist at the Arcadia Post Office, and to Divide.

In 1881 Charles H. French and E. P. Savage (later of Sargent and Governor, 1901-1903), were partners in a livery, feed and exchange stable, also for the carrying of mail, passenger and express. They had a general horse barn, a large structure east of the site of the B & M Station.

Mr. French, whose mail-contract had been sublet from Russell, Majors and Waddell, appeared three times between 1878 and 1882 in Washington, having been subpoenaed as a witness in the Star Route Mail (fraud) cases.

The arrival of the Union Pacific railroad in Loup City, May 31, 1886, insured regular mails by train, Sunday excepted. Litchfield and Hazard benefited similarly when the present day B & M built beyond Ravenna in June, 1886.

4. Railroad Construction

The branch of the Omaha and Republican Valley Railroad had reached St. Paul, from Grand Island, on May 23, 1880. Loup City waited six years until the line was extended to her.

Population increased after the Burlington settled its tax controversy and began its intensive advertising for settlers. (1878). It had the title to 131,853 acres of Sherman County land.

The Union Pacific had the selection of its comparatively few acres confirmed in July, 1881. However, it resisted taxation in Sherman County until 1887. (Comm. Rec. II, p. 233. W. H. Hulziner, General Manager, August 31, 1933).

Despite the burden of early bond issues, Sherman County had voted \$38,000 in 6 per cent bonds, (943-38) on July 7, 1886, to aid in construction of a railroad. The village of Loup City on March 4, 1886 had voted \$2,000 as an inducement to the Omaha and Republican Valley to build to it. (Comm. Rec. II, pp. 41, 50). Appraisal committees had been appointed, and landholders who gave a right-of-way received suitable indemnities.

By December 21, 1885, the line from St. Paul had reached Howard City, (later Boelus), a distance of 18.60 miles. By May 30, 1886, the remaining 20.80 miles to Loup City was constructed. A thanksgiving service was held Monday, May 31, by the G. A. R. The real celebration of the train's arrival came on June 4.

The building of the telegraph line parallel to the route of the Union Pacific at the time the O and RV Railroad, was completed late in June. On June 29, 1886, Mrs. Alice Rosseter Willard, correspondent of the Omaha Bee, sent this telegram:

Loup City Connected by Wire

Loup City, Nebraska, June 29, 1886 — (Special telegram to the Bee) — Today electricity connects Loup City with the outer world, and through the courtesy of Mr. Charles Stedman, the station agent, your correspondent is permitted to send to the Bee the first despatch to traverse the newly stretched wire. Everything booming. Crops splendid. All happy.

Mrs. Willard wrote George E. Benschoter, editor of the Nebraska Record (Vol. 1, No. 9):

You may recall that during the years 1883-1888 I was the Bee's correspondent in Loup City. It was my privilege to pen the lines referred to, but as you know, published despatches do not bear signatures. I mentioned Mr. Stedman's name for the courtesy. He was the Associated Press correspondent. He granted me the courtesy, saying that I had been there longer and deserved the honor.

Building of the Omaha and Republican Valley (Union Pacific) from St. Paul is said to have hastened the activities of the Burlington and Missouri. It had reached St. Paul on August 17, 1887. Because of haste, it is alleged that the B & M, cut off from the river valley route by the Union Pacific (O and RV), simply followed the old stage line. The B & M followed Oak Creek, then wound through the hills to Loup City.

The building of the railroads determined the location of towns. On the Union Pacific, Rockville, seven miles from Howard City (Boelus) became a new village in the county. On the B & M, Ashton was the new town. The post office of Zeven, east of the new townsite, was relocated in Ashton. The B & M did not end its branch at Loup City, but followed the river northwest, locating a town Arcadia, near the north county line, in Valley County. Arcadia had train service by October 31, 1887. The B & M built to Sargent by October 31, 1899. A survey was made to continue further, and some grading was done, but no track was laid.

The construction crews brought business to settlers along the way. Mrs. Aimee Conger recalls that when the construction camp was near her grandfather Haney's farm, the crew dug a well, but came to their

home for food, and laundry. Mrs. Pauline Jung Hansen remembers when a woman cook with construction crew above Loup City decided to help fight a prairie fire by counter-firing. The fire-fighters had to return to their camp to put out this blaze.

There had been no great celebration in Loup City when the B & M reached Loup City on October 10, 1887. Some citizens had managed to be in St. Paul in order to ride into town with the first train. Mrs. Nettie Conger Steen remembers that her mother was returning from Lincoln aboard that train. Children in the south part of town perched on shed roofs in order to see the second train. The coming of the two railroads changed the location of the business section of Loup City. It was originally around the courthouse square and south, toward the creek. Now "main street" ran east from the railroad stations. Some buildings were moved, and new ones were built on this street. The B & M built a two-story station, with living quarters for the agent upstairs. The Union Pacific was slow to build a station, which was one-story.

Sidings at Schaupps on the B & M and at Austin on the UP, half way between Loup City and Ashton were later built. The B & M also located a siding some six miles above town known as McAlpine, named for Thomas McAlpine of Lincoln, who in 1886 bought the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 21-16-15 and had it platted in blocks and lots. Later it was taken over by the Lincoln Land and Investment Company but no town ever developed. Due to the insistence of Peter Truelsen, the railroad had built a siding and loading shutes there. His son, Carsten, bought some of these improvements when the railroad abandoned the site.

Simultaneously with the arrival of the Omaha and Republican Valley (U. P.) line in Loup City, the Grand Island and Wyoming Central (later the Billings line of the B & M) built across southwest Sherman County from Grand Island.

Provisions were that the railroad shall commence in the town and Grand Island, in the county of Hall, State of Nebraska, and shall run northwest through parts of Hall, Buffalo, Sherman, Custer and Blaine counties, and northwesterly through unorganized territory . . . then northwest . . . to a point on the Nebraska-Wyoming line to Sioux Indian country . . .

Contracts were let in 1886; as constructed the line was open for traffic

Grand Island to Ravenna, 31.20 miles, June 30, 1886
to Ansley, 32.10 miles, Aug. 12, 1886
to Broken Bow, Aug. 26, 1886

The main line was operated from the date of completion to February 13, 1887, by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy as lessee; from that date by the Burlington owner by deed. (Letter, L. L. Smith, General Sup't, CB&Q, Dec. 31, 1950).

Two new towns, Litchfield and Hazard, were located by this railroad. Litchfield was some two miles west of the post office at Cedarville; Hazard was about the same distance east of Bentora post office.

In June, 1893, the U. P. discontinued passenger service for a time due to the drouth. These railroads provided excellent service for the

county. The two in Loup City maintained similar schedules, a passenger train east in the morning, one west in the evening. The B & M freight generally left town in mid-morning, the U. P. in mid-afternoon. Freights also carried passengers. The trains stopped at convenient crossings, at State Fair time, and later accommodated rural teachers and pupils by picking them up and letting them off as desired. When the B&M went west at eleven o'clock at night, it carried a Pullman car. The Union Pacific later had a noon motor to Grand Island.

Litchfield and Hazard, on the main line northwest, had more trains. Express service was established with the arrival of the railroads. The Wells Fargo Express company sold to the American Express in 1893. Adams Express Company served one railroad.

With the coming of the automobile and trucks, inroads were made on railroad business. The Union Pacific reduced passenger service from two to one round trip daily in May, 1931. The afternoon mixed train continued to carry freight, mail, express, baggage, and passengers. A truck line had been established on the Potash Highway in 1929.

The express companies inaugurated free pick-up and delivery service in January, 1932. The first bus line was announced in the Times, November 18, 1932. Headquarters were the Ideal Cafe, eastbound at 9:10 a.m.; west-bound, 3:45 p.m.

The B & M discontinued its passenger motor on April 20, 1941, after filing its application with the Railway Commission in the fall of 1940. Changes in bus service in November, 1940, moved the station to the McCoy Cafe, nearer the hotel. At this time a route was established from Grand Island to Taylor.

Greatly curtailed railroad service made mail delivery by truck a necessity. A star route from St. Paul to Loup City was begun in April, 1941. Its extension to Arcadia was effected September 1, 1941. Lee Joynt of St. Paul was the first mail carrier, leaving St. Paul at 6:45 a.m. and 2 p.m.; leaving Loup City at 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Beside carrying the mail, the mail truck offered limited express and passenger service. During the war, because of the shortage of gasoline, and need for transportation, Mr. Joynt had two long seats inside for passengers.

The Union Pacific made its last passenger motor run on September 3, 1941. The Pop Corn Trail Lines leased the B & M bus service in December, 1942. A bus which left Grand Island at 9 a.m. reached Loup City at 10:50 and Kearney at 1 p.m. Leaving Kearney at 3 p.m., it reached Loup City at 5 p.m. and Grand Island at 7 p.m. It was in operation from 1945 to 1950.

That the coming of the railroad was appreciated by the settlers was proved by a report in the Sherman County Times, January 19, 1888. The Union Pacific in 1887 had sold 4912 passenger tickets, with 716 full cars of freight forwarded and received. The days of fording the river, of freighting overland, had ended.

The railroads were a vital part of the development of the county. Their taxes, their educational campaigns (crop specials, poultry spe-

cials) and interest in agricultural methods, were a stimulus to better farming. Railroad ties could be begged by a farmer; railroad section crews might assist in changing a watershed. And as for cattle killed on the right-of-way, a Union Pacific fireman once stated, "The engine never hits anything but a thoroughbred".

Because the Union Pacific branch ended at Loup City, that road was a part of the community. Young folks might "borrow" the hand-car on Sunday afternoon, to "pump" down to Austin, depending on a wind to make the going easier. What child ever missed a ride around the "Y" with the engineer, "Uncle" Joe O'Bryan? When the gasoline motor was first used, it was scorned as the "potato bug". In January, 1908, the editor of the Gauge expressed a common feeling:

The motor stood on the railroad track,
Where all but it had flown,
It could not move a single peg
Froze up from wheel to dome.
And just then when the blizzard struck,
The motor, where was she?
Ask of the wind that blows the snow,
And let the blamed thing be.

Railroad agents at Loup City, B & M (Furnished by F. B. Whitman, general superintendent of the C B & Q, January 27, 1948):

H. J. Curtiss, March 16, 1887 to June 23, 1888
M. L. Hurd, June 27, 1888 to Jan. 16, 1889
W. H. Talcott, Jan. 16, 1889 to July 18, 1889
F. H. Hiser, July 18, 1889 to Jan. 18, 1894
R. A. Bixby, Jan. 18, 1894 to March 28, 1895
A. F. Werts, March 28, 1895 to May 3, 1899
R. L. Arthur, May 3, 1899 to May 1, 1908
J. A. Danielson, May 1, 1908 to May 28, 1919
C. S. Hager, May 28, 1919 to June, 1938
W. C. O'Leary, July 9, 1918 to Jan. 1, 1939
G. D. Meredith, Jan. 3, 1939 to Aug. 31, 1946
E. E. Swan, Sept. 14, 1946 to July 30, 1947
C. J. Plith, Aug. 12, 1947 to Oct. 30, 1950
J. V. Beran, Oct. 30, 1950 to

(last two from Sherman County Times).

Ashton agents:

A. B. Spencer, Oct. 16, 1889 to Nov. 22, 1889
A. N. Conkling, to April 26, 1892
R. L. Arthur, April 26, 1892 to (unknown)
F. D. Lamphere, May 7, 1899 to April 25, 1901
George DeFord (unknown) to Oct. 21, 1903
A. C. Hugg, March 5, 1907 to April 25, 1907
W. B. Ockerman, May 25, 1907 to Aug. 19, 1907
J. V. Beran, Oct. 15, 1918 to Oct. 30, 1950
G. B. Gunther, Oct. 30, 1950 to

(Information furnished by L. L. Smith, General Supt., December 13, 1950).

Union Pacific agents at Loup City: (Authorities state they have no records at present of the agents. This list is compiled from the newspapers; is not complete).

C. S. Stedman, 1886, (office in boxcar); A. A. May, Chas. Perkins, 1888; S. B. Cowles, 1892; Frank W. Cline, 1895; W. D. Clifton, 1897; H. J. Clifton, March 30, 1900; M. D. Smith, 1903; 1903 to 1906, F. H. Hiser; G. W. Collipriest, 1906 to 1919; Frank A. Maca, 1919 to July 21, 1945; F. M. Feild, 1949; S. D. Sullivan, 1950.

Mr. A. E. Stoddard, present president of the Union Pacific, was operator at Loup City from 1919 to 1922. He is a brother-in-law of F. M. Feild.

The Union Pacific installed motor passenger service about 1907. A picture in the Union Pacific Museum in Omaha states that the first motor with central entrance, round windows, and trailer for baggage and mail, was used on the Loup City branch.

5. Rural Route Mail Delivery

The first rural free delivery mail route was established out of Loup City April 16, 1906. Its first carrier was J. W. Conger.

Mrs. Coral Leininger Conger, postal clerk at the time, writes (1951):

I recall how excited we all were that first morning. A star route went out of the office once a week, (later twice a week), driven by B. T. Snyder. But this was something different. That there might be no mistake, I listed every piece of mail (there wasn't much).

Other carriers were Edgar B. Foster, R. D. Hendrickson, Roy A. McCleary, Lewis L. Williams, I. M. Polski, Wm. S. Steen, Roy J. Petersen, Wm. L. Redfern.

Route No. 2, established June 1, 1908 was assigned to Route 1 in 1921.

Route No. 3, established May 1, 1908, commonly called Route 2, had for its first carrier J. W. Conger, who continued until 1919. The Route 2 picnic, organized by Carrier Conger for his patrons, held Sept. 1, Labor, Day, was something to be remembered. Jenner's Park, a parade with movies, the wonderful picnic dinner, were awaited by the youngsters from year to year. (Nebraska Record, October, 1915). Later carriers were Chris Domgard, Rufus Hiddleston, Clinton J. Conger, and Leroy L. Williams.

At present there are three routes out of the Loup City post office. Carriers are C. C. Conger, Wm. L. Redfern, C. S. Whitehead.

Ashton's Route 1 was established May 16, 1904. Mail carrier in 1905 was Mungo J. Vincent, followed by Adam Gehring and John J. Rapp, Jr. The original records concerning the establishment of Ashton Route No. 2 are lost, but carrier over the 44-mile route in 1944 was Charley M. Post, followed in 1945 by Frank J. Badura. Ashton Route No. 3 was established June 16, 1915, with John J. Rapp, Jr. followed by Julius J. Dilla, Earnest H. Moeller, John . Pilakowski, Tony E. Grabowski, Walter C. Hapke, and Adam Gehring. It was discontinued 3-31-35 and assigned to Route No. 1.

Litchfield's Route No. 1 was established January 15, 1904. Carriers have been, John J. Burt, Myers E. Myers, George W. Sanson, Charles W. Benson, George M. Preis, Herbert C. Marsh, Marshall H. McCash, Leonard Wolfe, Francis E. Reilly, and Byrel M. Lang. Litchfield's Route No. 2, established Dec. 1, 1904, with Fred W. Betz, George M. Widdin, Lloyd Slaughter, Harry Alkire, Wm. Stauffer, Fred W. Betz, and Merrett E. Plantz.

Litchfield's Route No. 3 was established July 1, 1908. Carriers were Hugh E. Mallory, Maud Ormsbee, and John T. Halbeisen. This route was discontinued 10-31-35.

Hazard's Route No. 1 was established July 1, 1908. Its carriers were: Jergen H. Claussen, J. D. Daily, Clifton H. Roberts, Lester E. Reiter, Clyde C. McCormick, Clifton L. Roberts, Leroy Brewer, Michael E. Cronin (no service), and John F. Aden.

Rockville had one mail route established Nov. 2, 1920. Carriers were R. X. Rasmussen, Harry Sandstrom, and Edw. Roschynialksi.

(Information furnished by U. S. Postal Department)

6. Telephone

The first telephone in Loup City seems to have been that of E. L. Ditto, druggist, who strung a wire between his store and residence, according to the Times, February 14, 1889. Somewhat later, there was reference to "wires strung everywhere", probably for "home-made lines".

In March, 1897, a telephone line connected Litchfield with Loup City. Money was raised by popular subscription. A year later, poles were being set for the Clear Creek telephone line. James Lang of Litchfield and Ed. Achenbach of Loup City connected the two towns.

The Litchfield Monitor reported that the Loup City North Western put out a special edition at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. Some one in Lincoln read items over the telephone.

In May, 1898, the Clear Creek telephone line was working ten miles up the creek. This line was humorously referred to as the "green briar" line, since it was strung on fence posts in places. This organization reported a dividend of one dollar on ten dollar shares in March, 1901.

At Loup City, a pay station was located in Dr. W. T. Chase's drug store. The switchboard had been located in the home of Dr. A. J. Kearns, who because of physical disability had ceased medical practice. That summer, his son Ray, and a number of other Loup City boys worked stringing wires between Loup City and Ashton. It was reported that Loup City had 15 residential phones and 27 business phones. The Loup City Telephone Company received a franchise in November, 1903. It was connected with Broken Bow.

The Sherman County Telephone Company united the independent telephone companies of the county as a stock company in June, 1905. E. G. Taylor was president; B. H. Lorentz of Ashton, vice-president; A. J. Kearns, secretary; W. R. Mellor, treasurer; and Wilbur Waite, general manager. Loup City, Arcadia, Ashton, Litchfield, and Rockville were connected.

Dr. Kearns continued as switchboard manager until June, 1906. At that time the company built a residence one block west of Kearns where Edwin Angier lived as manager.

At this time the Sherman County Telephone Company connected with Litchfield over the Central Telephone Company exchange. They

charged for messenger service until their own exchange was installed. In March, 1908, the telephone company was moved to a building north of the Times office.

The Hazard Telephone Company was incorporated April 20, 1909, capitalization, \$10,000.00. Hiyo Aden, Fred H. Fuller, C. W. Trumble Charles Croston, and John Boecking were directors.

The Bell Telephone Company bought out the Sherman County Telephone Company in Febr., 1911. Broken Bow and Ravenna companies sold to them about this time. Glenn Stevens became manager. In 1912 a new switchboard was installed. The upper story of W. S. Waite's building was leased in 1917.

The Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company of Litchfield was incorporated in 1910. J. Steward was secretary; Wm. Boecking, Knut Hansen, H. Ladegarde, Wm. Garnett and Elmer Slote, Wm. Garnett, F. M. Goff, J. Steward, W. J. Heapy, K. H. Ladegarde were directors. (Misc. Rec. VII., 166).

A Litchfield and South Loup Telephone Company was organized Nov. 10, 1913. Ross Farnsworth, Thos. F. Henkens, G. L. Dehm, John Bauer, and J. P. Ward incorporated, capitalization \$10,000. The object was to connect Loup City and Litchfield by telephone. (Misc. Rec. VII, p. 565).

The Nebraska Telephone Company purchased the Sherman County telephone business, on June 1, 1916. This included the exchanges at Loup City and other points. W. S. Waite had been general manager since 1907.

Managers and chief operators of the Nebraska Telephone Company, now the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company:

Manager and (Chief Operator)
Joe Chandler and (Mabel Depew) to 1919
Guy Rash and (Mabel Depew) to 1924
Rex Stark and (Mabel Depew) to 1927
"Dude" Martin and (Mabel Depew)
C. E. Wanek and (Velma Rowe) to 1935
J. R. Miller and (Lucille Fiebig to 1941) to 1940
(Fern Kuhl to 1944)
J. L. Hegarty and (Mrs. Erma Lorentz)

Combination man since 1926 has been O. R. Lilley. Present operators are: Joan Bennett, Pearl Tucker, Fern Guilford, Jean Macke, Lorraine Tesmer, Sarah Ruth Long. In 1935 the office was moved to a ground floor office south of the courthouse. Cables were placed underground.

In Sherman County, on March 1, 1951, there were 1049 telephones. with 604 in Loup City. Hazard had 150 phones in a locally owned company operated by Ray Stewart. There are 400 miles of rural lines.

Operator at Rockville is Irene Heise; Ashton, Gertrude Moraszewski assisted by Bertha Wesierski handles 84 telephones; at Litchfield, Mrs. Ethel T. Grice, agent, assisted by Martha T. Gooden as helper and Opal Curry as relief, has 160 telephones. (Information on the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company in Sherman County by courtesy of J. L. Hegarty, general manager, March 1, 1951).

7. Aviation

Sherman County's "flying farmer" is Mr. Wm. Couton of Austin, who was delayed about twenty years, he says, because of his mother's objections. He learned to fly at Grand Island, soloed in nine hours, bought a Luscomb plane, and made his cross-country solo flight, from Grand Island to Bowman, North Dakota, on July 10, 1947. This distance is a day and a half by auto, four and a half hours by air. A 1900 foot landing strip was set up on the Couton farm, close to the buildings.

Mr. and Mrs. Couton flew to Lakeland, Florida, requiring fifteen flying hours each way, leaving the farm on February 24, 1948. They enjoyed the courtesy of airport officials and flyers everywhere they stopped. (Wm. Couton, March, 1951).

On the farm, the plane is used to spot hidden new-born calves, check irrigation in corn fields, and shorten the distance between hard-to-get-to places.

Lee McFadden is a second Sherman County farmer who has purchased a plane and enjoys flying.

Another Sherman County farm boy who is noted for his flying is Major John Haessler. When a group of pals were to take their physicals for enlistments during World War II, John, a rather shy boy, was persuaded to take the test for flying. He was the only one to pass and enlisted in the air force. His rise was rapid; he has remained in the service and is currently stationed at Lisbon, Portugal.

8. Trucking

A truck line between Loup City and Grand Island was mentioned April 16, 1921. Various firms have engaged in trucking in and out of Loup City for a number of years. Farmers owning trucks often do their own trucking. The Loup Transfer Company is the largest business of this sort at this time. It was established August 15, 1945, by Richard Lysinger, who bought from the Romans firm. Its warehouse, arranged for storage, and offices, are located in the cement block building opposite the northeast corner of the Keystone Lumber Company block.

This firm has fifteen trucks covering four routes. There are fourteen employees: Maurice Youngquist, Leopold Tesmer, Henry McMichael, Vene C. Tucker, Donald Moses, Calvin Moses, Leo Kowalewski, George Watson, Ronald Trompke (in service), Paul Moritz (in service), and Lois Worth, stenographer.

In the Omaha office, Ted Strasser is manager; Corwin Moreland and Howard Polsley. (Information from R. Lysinger).

9. Sherman County Post Offices

(Secured through the courtesy of Valerie Gzehoviak, in U. S. Postal Records, Washington, D. C.)

Loup City

This postoffice was established Aug. 26, 1873, with Frank Ingram as postmaster. Nov. 8, 1894, the name of the office was changed to Loup. Jan. 25, 1904, the name Loup City was resumed.

Postmasters: 8-26-1873, Frank Ingram; 11-10-74, Cyrus E. Rosseter; 2-8-75, A. B. Tutton; 3-15-75, Cyrus E. Rosseter; 9-18-75, A. B. Tutton; 12-20-77, Wm. Baillie; 8-30-80, Alice C. Rosseter; 12-20-81, Alice C. Willard; 12-7-85, Cyrus E. Walworth; 12-21-89, Minnie Wall; 10-28-90, Minnie Wall Hansel; 11-26-90, Marvin H. Mead; 11-8-94, Lavina E. Walworth; 12-5-94, J. M. Young, (order rescinded 12-15-94, Mrs. Walworth continued); 12-9-98, Wm. T. Owen; 1-11-09, Darwin C. Grow; 7-21-13, C. F. Beusheusen; 4-10-22, Minnie Wall Johansen; 9-1-40, Roy C. Plants.

(Robert L. Young says that his father gave up the appointment because of bickering).

Rockville

This postoffice was established December 1, 1873, with T. N. Johnson as postmaster.

Postmasters: 12-1-1873, T. N. Johnson; 7-9-77, Frank M. Gardner; 9-13-78, Wm. H. Hawkins; 12-18-78, Wm. H. Stephens; 11-26-83, John H. Lozier; 3-17-84, John J. Blair; 1-12-85, Fred Gust; 11-27-85, Mrs. Augusta M. Gust; 4-13-88, Resylvia E. Fair; 3-27-02, Wm. H. Smelser; 7-31-08, Louis Hansen; 10-10-13, Ralph W. Sundstrom; 8-25-15, Rhuanna Branscomb; 11-29-33, Frovin Rasmussen.

Cedarville

Date of establishment, January 1, 1875. Name of postoffice changed to Litchfield June 18, 1886, and is still in operation under that name.

Postmasters: 1-1-1875, Enoch W. Gowin; 10-17-76, Alfred Flint; 4-4-79, Wm. T. Draper; 3-22-80, Enoch W. Gowin; 11-8-81, C. H. Freeland; 9-8-84, James T. Campbell. (With the coming of the railroad, Mr. Campbell moved the postoffice from his farm to the new townsite, known as Litchfield).

Litchfield

6-19-86, James T. Campbell; 3-17-87, George H. Pearson; 4-3-89, Theodore H. Reasoner; 6-17-93, Michael S. Taffe; 7-2-97, Adm. H. Potter; 6-17-05, Charles W. Gibson; 8-21-13, Orren Slote; 7-18-22, Hugh E. Mallory; 1-17-27, Ross L. Douglas; 7-10-35, Cecil Brundige; 7-27-43, Jens W. Jensen. Present postmaster, Beryl Lang.

Hayestown

Established Jan. 19, 1877, with Julius Buss as postmaster. Discontinued July 25, 1899. Mail ordered sent to Ravenna, Buffalo County.

Postmasters: 1-19-77, Julius Buss; 11-14-95, Mary Finder; 7-25-99, discontinued.

Austin

Established July 11, 1877, with Oliver S. Brown postmaster. Discontinued Febr. 2, 1883, mail ordered sent to Loup City. Reestablished June 4, 1883; again discontinued Nov. 2, 1903. Reestablished Nov. 14, 1903, and discontinued Febr. 15, 1919. Mail ordered sent to Loup City.

Postmasters: 7-11-77, Oliver S. Brown; 7-25-82, John B. Nagelvoort; 7-25-82, Henry Gardner; 9-7-82, J. B. Nagelvoort; 6-4-83, discontinued, mail to Loup City; 2-20-88, Wm. H. Ogle; 12-22-94, Elias S. Ogle; 11-2-03, discontinued, mail to Loup City; 6-14-06, Ellsworth Ogle; 4-6-08, John Vandegrift; 11-25-13, Alonzo W. Daddow; 5-23-16, Alonzo Throckmorton; 1-9-17, J. Elvin Daddow; 5-3-18, Frank O. C. Hendrickson; 2-12-19, discontinued, mail to Loup City.

Fitzalon; Furay; Paris

Postmasters, 1-4-78, Oscar F. Brown; 5-31-80, Wm. Widdis; 7-13-80, Harry T. Brown; name changed to Furay, 4-6-82, A. H. Gray; name changed to Paris, 5-3-82, A. H. Gray; 6-1-87, Mrs. Jennie N. Fuller; 5-20-89, Mrs. Belle Brock. Postoffice closed 11-25-90 and mail sent to Ravenna, Buffalo County.

Bluffton

Established April 17, 1879.

Postmasters, 4-17-79, Newton Davis; 6-1-87, George H. Scott. Postoffice closed 5-26-88 and mail sent to North Loup, Greeley County.

Balsora

Established Sept. 9, 1879.

Postmasters: 9-9-79, Lawrence Frisk; 1-22-80, Wm. L. Gregory; 4-25-82, George H. Whitman. Postoffice closed 4-16-88 and mail sent to Arcadia, Valley County.

Bentora

Established Oct. 2, 1888, with Mrs. Mary Bent as postmaster. Name of office changed to Hazard, moved from Davidson's farm to newly created town of Hazard. Still in operation.

Postmasters: 10-2-82, Mrs. Mary Bent; 3-20-83, Mrs. Florence A. Davidson.

Hazard

Postmasters: 1-14-87, Mrs. Florence A. Davidson; 3-14-88, John R. Davidson; 5-20-89, John L. Cressler; 2-21-91, Edw. Munn; 8-17-95, Charley Bass; 12-12-98, Edw. Munn; 5-6-07, Frederic H. Fuller; 3-17-22, Lottie B. Trumble; 12-7-44, Mrs. Mildred L. Trumble, acting postmaster.

Jericho

Established April 4, 1883, with Ira May as postmaster. Closed May 26, 1888, and mail sent to Loup City.

Elling

Established June 11, 1883.

Postmasters: 6-11-83, Elling Johnson; 2-25-84, Edw. W. Lindsay; 3-24-84, Samuel E. Tuck. Postoffice discontinued Febr. 20, 1887 and mail sent to Round Grove P. O. in Custer County (just over the line west).

Paradise

Established 9-2-83, with Thomas H. McClintock postmaster. Closed Febr. 20, 1884, mail sent to Cedarville P.O.

Cleoria

Established Jan. 14, 1884, with Mrs. Mary E. Zimmerman (Mrs. A. L.) as postmaster. Closed July 28, 1885 and mail sent to Loup City.

Denniston

Established Febr. 6, 1885, with DeWitt C. Denniston as postmaster. Closed July 28, 1885 and mail sent to Loup City.

Divide

Established March 19, 1886.

Postmasters: 3-19-86, Moses H. Smith; 5-17-98, Alonzo W. Throckmorton; 1-18-84, Barbara A. Rensick. Postoffice closed July 7, 1906 and mail sent to Loup City.

Schaupps

Established Febr. 25, 1905. Closed June 15, 1915 and mail sent to Ashton.

Postmasters: 2-25-05, Emery Bly; 3-8-07, Frank Topolski; 7-25-10, William Lewandowski; 3-31-14, Joseph L. Peters; 4-5-15, S. A. Lewandowski.

Wilhelmshohe:

Established Sept. 4, 1879, with Jacob Albers as postmaster. Name changed to Zeven (Zay-ven), Nov. 13, 1882. Moved from Gappa farm to new town of Ashton March 22, 1888. Still in operation under name Ashton.

Zeven

Postmasters: 11-13-82, Jacob Albers; 9-3-84, C. Frank Newman; 1-30-88, Frank Gappa.

Ashton

Postmasters: 3-22-88, Frank Gappa; 8-1-88, Peter Hanson; 9-9-89, Ed. G. Taylor; 12-14-93, A. N. Conklin; 4-15-95, George M. Tockey (appointment rescinded, 4-22-95); 12-4-97, Wm. A. Wilson; 5-19-98, Theodore Okjendyke; 1-26-09, Henry W. Ojendyke; 3-3-19, Garrett H. Lorenz; 6-4-20, Frank G. Smith; 5-28-36, Frank A. Badura. Present incumbent, Gertrude Wesierski.

Verdurett (later Verdurette)

Established 1-9-80.

Postmasters: 1-9-80, Jashau M. Snyder; 7-12-83, Joshua M. Snyder; 7-24-84, Frank A. Blackman; 11-11-86, Joshua M. Snyder; 12-31-96, Harriet F. Snyder. Postoffice closed Dec. 15, 1897 and mail sent to Loup City.

Noah

Established Apr. 3, 1881.

Postmasters: 4-3-1881, Noah D. Vanscoy; 3-6-82, Samuel J. Fair. March 30, 1882, discontinued, mail ordered sent to Souleville.

Souleville

Postmaster: March 30, 1882, Samuel J. Fair. Discontinued Aug. 27, 1886, mail ordered sent to Boelus, Howard County.

Lonelm

Established May 26, 1882. Closed Febr. 29, 1884, mail sent to Zeven.

Postmasters: 5-26-82, Jonathan Arthaud; 10-17-83, John R. Baker. Discontinued 2-29-84.

Fern

Established August 3, 1882, Thos. E. Coverly, postmaster. Discontinued Febr. 17, 1886, and mail sent to Rockville.

(Note: The Loup City postoffice gave some information on present postmasters of Sherman County, since Miss Gzehoviak did her research in 1944. A photostat of the entries to 1944 was secured.)

10. Newspapers

Publication of the first newspaper, the Loup City News, was begun by Oct. 22, 1873, for on that date the county commissioners voted to subscribe for 150 copies of the News, "for the benefit of the County". (Comm. Rec. I, 5). It was also the official paper of the county. The subscription price was \$2.50 per year. The county paid for these subscriptions in warrants. (Comm. Rec. I, 151). Mrs. Minnie Wall Johansen states that the money for the paper was raised by popular subscription, the first number printed Nov. 3, 1873. George Benschoter tells (Nebraska Record, Oct. 1915) of its beginning:

The outfit was purchased by William Benschoter (my father) from a party in Central City, and hauled across country, a distance of 75 miles. Almon Benschoter, my half-brother, made the trip in a lumber wagon, and hauled the whole outfit, press and all, in one load.

It was all printed at home, edited by E. S. Atkinson (then county clerk), and if I remember rightly, O. B. Willard came over from Kearney and took charge of the mechanical work, while we, a lad of fifteen summers, acted as "printer's devil."

The office was on the upper floor of a frame store building opposite the southwest corner of the courthouse square. In 1875 the name was changed to Sherman County Times, becoming a seven column folio with "patent inside."

Mr. E. A. Brown, afterwards editor of the Times, wrote in Oct., 1915 (Nebraska Record), that between the death of the News and the founding of the Times the plant was stored in the barn of Alfred Brown, south of town. For years afterwards, he picked kernels of wheat from the type boxes.

A. B. Tutton, county clerk, was editor in 1876. (Kearney Press, Sept. 1876) with O. B. Willard in charge of the printing.

In 1877, E. E. Forsythe was editor and publisher. (Comm. Rec. I, 193). He was described as a real newspaper man, afterwards conductor on the Union Pacific (Loup City branch) (Book of Facts, p. 58). Chas. A. Hale and Wm. Benschoter became partners in 1878, when on Dec. 17, Hale bought of A. Brown "an undivided half interest in all press, types and materials of the Sherman County Times", for \$175.00 (Misc. Rec. I, 48). Place of publication was in a building 144 feet long, 25 feet wide, which stood a block south of the present Times office. (Ibid. 87). Hale and Benschoter dissolved partnership Jan. 1, 1879. (Ibid. 90).

Thirty dollars was appropriated by the commissioners on Febr. 3, 1878, to send copies of the paper to "twelve leading libraries of the state". (Comm. Rec. I, 271). So far, no copies have been located.

Dr. A. B. Tutton and a printer, Pratt, took charge of the paper in 1879. (Nebr. Rec. Nov. 1915). During this time Wm. Benschoter was trying to sell the paper. C. H. E. Heath took charge in Oct., 1879. (App. Docket I, 79). For his services he was to be owner. Heath, an Englishman educated at Cambridge University, wrote editorials so long that young George Benschoter ran them as "continued" when the type supply was low. Heath fired "Ed" Brown for driving a "snake" out of his bed; Willard fired him for his spelling. (Nebr. Record, Nov. 1915).

C. H. E. Heath and Aaron Wall transferred the printing office, one Washington hand press, types and all materials of the Times to O. B. Willard on June 11, 1881. Willard had been absent from the county, in California, where he was said to have served as compositor and manager of the Lakeport County Bee, and later with the Lake County Democrat. (Times, June 2, 1887).

A second newspaper, "solid" Republican, was announced for Loup City by the St. Paul Press Oct. 16, 1882. C. H. E. Heath was to be editor; Joel R. Scott, D. D. Grow, John Hogue, William Benschoter, and C. H. E. Heath were stockholders. George Benschoter handled the mechanical end and now "dared" to abbreviate Heath's long communications.

Scott and Benschoter took over the new "Northwestern", after a few months, during which time W. H. Rightenour, later of the Litch-

field Monitor, was printer's devil. Joel R. Scott, J. Woods Smith, and R. J. and T. S. Nightingale bought the paper in 1885. (Misc. Rec. I, 284, May 20). J. I. Frederick, J. W. Hamilton, and George E. Benschoter acted as editors until Berton L. Richardson of Vermont was hired. He had entered a homestead in Sherman County in 1883, in 14-16-15, not far from the entry of his rival editor of the Times, O. B. Willard. Both newspapers were used by their owners in the political struggle now coming to a head.

Richardson was exonerated following the shooting of O. B. Willard on May 28, 1887, and from Denver the next year sold the Campbell Printing Press, with furniture and buildings (Lot 1, Bl. 8) to George E. Benschoter. David Kay had been employed to take charge a few months, after which Benschoter took over. Brown, later editor of the Times, had been foreman on the Northwestern in 1886. (Comm. Rec. II, p. 142).

When the county commissioners awarded the printing on Jan. 13, 1887, a third paper, the Sherman County Transcript, was mentioned. Its editor was George L. Barton. No copies of this publication have been found, but in a scrap book of the late W. R. Mellor are numerous clippings from the Transcript. It was suspended in 1888.

Articles of incorporation of the Polish Publishing Company of Nebraska were filed Dec. 19, 1887 (Misc. Rec. II, p. 57). Capitalization was \$1500.00, with shares valued at one hundred dollars each. Miles H. Carlton, Geo. L. Barton, Geo. Chlewski, Leo Klein, and Michael Stillmock were named as owners. The editor lived at Elba. Tradition states that the publication was suspended within a month. Since Barton of the Transcript was a stockholder in the Polish Publishing Company, the plan may have been to use the Transcript plant.

David Kay established the Sherman County Citizen in 1889. His equipment came from a printing establishment at North Loup. It suspended publication in May, 1890. In May the Farmer's Alliance announced publication of a paper, with James Zink as editor. Both newspapers were expressions of the political ferment of the times. In July reference was made to David Kay of the defunct Citizen assisting Ogle in the office of the Alliance newspaper. The Times reported, Jan. 2, 1892, that Kay had moved his outfit to the Walworth building. (Times, March 14, '89, Jan. 16, Apr. 24, July 14, 1890). Later, it was stored on Kay's farm north of town. William G. Benschoter, younger son of George E., stated in a letter written Jan. 20, 1947, that he and his brother Clarence hauled the outfit from Kay's to town with team and wagon. Evidently the Northwestern purchased it.

Following the death of her husband May 28, 1887, Mrs. Alice Rosseter Willard continued as editor until November, 1888, when E. A. Brown, working on the St. Paul Press, returned to be associated with H. R. Grow in its management. Grow sold his interest to W. F. Daddow in Sept. 1889. Brown and Daddow continued as editors until Daddow's death in 1893, when he, with three of his children, succumbed to diphtheria. Mr. Brown then became sole owner, having added the name "Independent" to Times, in 1892, and continued until

1908, when he sold the Times-Independent to C. F. Beusheusen. Mr. Beusheusen dropped the name Independent from the title in 1915. E. A. Brown associated with the Claflin Printing firm of University Place, and later he, with his son, W. Arthur, edited the Friend Sentinel.

(Mr. Brown and Mr. Benschoter, although newspaper rivals, had been friends from boyhood. As editors, they "borrowed" back and forth. Both rather short and rotund, fond of jokes, their morning walks to town were punctuated by a jolly "give and take", that was the delight of youngsters.)

Because of other interests, Mr. Beusheusen employed various editors. He bought the Northwestern Oct. 4, 1917. His son, M. R. Beusheusen, assumed the editorship in May, 1934, and remained ten years. Jack VanZandt leased the Times in June, 1944; in Febr., 1945, R. E. Bierbower joined the management. The Times was sold, in 1947, to C. W. McKinney and A. R. Riedesel. Mr. Van Zandt operated a printery next door to the Times office for a short time.

Meanwhile, J. W. Burleigh became owner and editor of the Northwestern in 1904; F. B. Hartman took over in 1914, and operated until 1917, when Mr. Beusheusen bought it.

George E. Benschoter, who operated a job printery after selling the Northwestern, began the publication of a monthly, Nebraska Record, in January, 1915. Interested in preserving the history of Sherman County, Mr. Benschoter in 1897 had written and published a Book of Facts, a 76-page folio. (His older son, Clarence, now county judge of Sheridan County, Nebraska, recalled that he sold copies of the book, 25 cents each, at the Sherman County Fair in the fall of 1897.) In the Record, Mr. Benschoter proposed to publish more county history. Subscription price was first 25c, then 50c, with "boiler plate" filler. When he removed to Hayes Springs, Nebraska, material on western Nebraska was included. Publication was suspended after 16 issues.

The Standard Gauge was begun by George H. Gibson, on Febr. 3, 1906, with Jack H. Rightenour as foreman. It was primarily a political organ directed against certain citizens of the county with whom Gibson and others differed politically (he was not sole owner). At first it contained only two pages of home print. It was continued until Mr. Gibson left Loup City, August 1, 1911, for Zephyrhills, Florida, where he engaged in newspaper work until his death. It revived a political feud between factions of the Willard-Richardson battle, with editorials so outspoken that it was popularly known as "The Gouge".

The Peoples' Standard began publication in December, 1918, with F. W. Pace and Blanche Templin as publishers. Harry McCormack, 1919, was succeeded by A. E. Brundson and wife who took over in December, 1921. It was made an organ of the Farm Holiday Association in 1932. Following the disappearance of Brundson in September, 1934, R. W. Sexty of St. Paul assisted in its publication, buying it from Mrs. Brundson in December, 1934. A new-name contest led to the selection of "Loup City Leader" in March, 1935, Mrs. George Pointer and Mildred Lyhne each winning a five-year subscription for their suggestion. The Leader was bought by the owner of the Times January

1, 1938. The Times had taken over the subscription list of the Ashton Herald in November, 1934. When the Litchfield Monitor ceased publication, in 1949, The Times became the only newspaper published in Sherman County. (People's Standard, December 13, 1934; March 14, 1935, Times, *passim*).

Litchfield had a newspaper soon after the arrival of the railroad. The late Mrs. Etta Kisling had preserved Vol. 1, No. 1 of the Monitor, Oct. 7, 1886. E. R. Bradley and R. D. V. Carr were in charge. G. W. Benschoter states that in politics it was first Republican, later Populist, but when Clarence Littlefield acquired it, he made it Republican. (In 1915 Mr. Littlefield was with the Press, Caspar, Wyoming). Mr. St. John of Kearney, Mr. Haddix, and Charles Ayers were editors until financial conditions led to its being taken over by Dr. H. R. Palmer, local physician, and the Rev. Mr. Shepperd, local minister. A. E. Lowery was succeeded in 1908 by W. H. Rightenour. (Nebraska Record, Vol. 1, No. 10, Nov. 1915).

A second newspaper, the Weekly Gazette, printed by C. D. (Clarence) Littlefield, began publication Jan. 31, 1889. (Mrs. Thema Lang, Times, July 1, 1948). The Times (Febr. 7, 1889) stated that the Monitor was Republican, the Gazette, Mugwump. A third Litchfield paper was reported by the Times (Jan. 16, 1890), an organ of the Farmer's Alliance. The Litchfield Northwestern is said to have begun publication May 27, 1892, and suspended publication August 19, 1892.

The Monitor was published until 1949. Following W. H. Rightenour editors were Dwight Willis, L. R. Samples, C. C. Deen, A. M. Anderson, C. N. Anderson. When it ceased publication, the plant was taken to Dunning.

There was reference in the Sherman County Times, (April 11, 1892), to the Ashton News, a Socialist paper, edited by John R. Smith. It suspended publication in May. (Times, May 23, 1952), due to lack of support.

The Ashton Herald was founded May 7, 1915, by J. R. Gardiner, who sold it in October, 1928, to A. E. Brundson and Co., of the Loup City Leader. C. J. Shepardson was editor and manager for two and a half years, until March, 1931. L. D. Jamrog took over for four months, when in July, 1931, A. W. Lang became editor. Under Brundson the paper had been entirely "home print". In October, 1931, A. M. Jacobson, of the Loup Valley Publishing Company, bought the Herald. A. W. Lang was editor, then F. A. Budd, L. D. Jamrog, C. J. Shepardson published the paper in May, 1932, then Bryan Miller took over, remaining as editor and publisher until August 5, 1932, a period of two months.

A. C. Wichman became temporary publisher; C. J. and A. V. Shepardson brought out one issue. The paper was bought at a chattel mortgage sale August 26, 1932, by Edw. S. Krikac of Comstock. Iva G. Pierce of Comstock served as editor and manager. An issue of Sept. 23, 1932, was the first after suspension. It was all home print, under the News Printery Company of Ashton. The Ashton Herald was discontinued with the issue of Nov. 2, 1934, when the Sherman County Times took over its mailing list. (Ashton Herald, Apr. 14, 1933; Nov. 2, 1934).

CHAPTER III

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

1. Organization

School District No. 1 of Sherman County (Loup City) was apparently formed before November 1, 1873, when J. Wesley Eddy succeeded Thomas N. Johnson as superintendent of public instruction. Mr. Eddy's entry in the 8 x 12 notebook which contains the superintendents' records, dated November 1, 1873, in careful, cramped writing:

I was duly elected to the office of Superintendent of Public instruction for Sherman County, Nebraska, on the 2nd day of October, 1873, and was inducted into office according to the regular forms of law.

I obtained the stationery for the County Superintendent from Mr. Thomas Johnson with his name upon it. I got my own printed on strips, which I cut out and pasted on the name of Mr. Johnson. I also received seven copies of the School Laws of Nebraska from Mr. Johnson.

Previous to my induction into office School District No. 1 had been formed, embracing one Township.

No other part of Sherman County was in any school district besides that embraced in School District No. 1.

This last statement, however, cannot have been true. Bond No. 1 of School District 11, dated August 15, 1873, signed by Peter Firth, Moderator; Herman Bronson, Director, and A. J. Cox, Treasurer, for \$600 payable at the Kountze Bros. Bank of New York City bearing 10% interest due September 1, 1878 and countersigned by County Clerk William P. Walt, is extant. (None of these names are found in the tax list for 1873).

Its existence proves the charge of reckless issuing of school bonds, which saddled the county with debt within a year after its organization, April, 1873.

Since Benschoters with five children and Rosseters with six of school age had come to Loup City during the summer of 1873, the need for a school was more pressing in Loup City than in other parts of the county.

The first building in District 1, Loup City, had been built before February 14, 1874, when Sup't. Eddy stated that he was "overseeing the seating" and two days later, "helping Miss Susie Gilbert organize the school in District 1". This first frame building is said to have stood northwest of the Keystone Lumber Company.

Who or by whom the building was built is unknown at present. \$4500 in bonds had been issued (9 of \$500 each, payable to Souders and Hardenburg, on October 1, 1883, with interest at 10 percent), on September 23, 1873. A tax of 6 mills to pay interest on the bonds of the district was levied on September 11, 1873. The procedure was to sell the bonds at a considerable discount in order to secure cash.

(Information in Hunnewell vs. Sherman Co. Case 252D, Circuit

Court Records, Omaha. In this suit the B & M successfully resisted the levying of taxes on its lands in Sherman County.)

Mr. Eddy's diary, page 141, ff. gives his further attempts at organizing schools in these districts for which bonds had already been voted.

November 15, 1873. Went to the west part of T 14, R 14 (south of Loup City). Spent the remaining day and evening in forming School District No. 2. Appointed N. B. Thompson to call the first meeting November 22.

December 11, 1873. Went to T 13, R 13 (Rockville). Found the people listless in regard to school. After much talk, Mr. Wm. Young consented to notify the legal voters. Was appointed to call the first meeting on January 17, 1874.

December 26, 1873. Held examination and institute. Granted a certificate of second grade to Miss Susie Gilbert and one of the third grade to H. M. Goetting, M.D.

December 31, 1873. This day, after much consultation, I succeeded in finding the boundaries of District No. 1. By a petition said district is enlarged. Each district is striving for as much territory as possible. I was kept busy in Loup City until late at night.

This same day formed District No. 1, consisting of T 14, R 14; T 14, R 15; and that part of T 14 R 14 lying south of the Middle Loup River.

January 8, 1874. By petition from District 1 and No. 4, District No. 6 was formed, consisting of T 14 and 15, R 13. J. R. Baker was appointed to call the first meeting on January 23. Sent a note to the Superintendent of Howard County, asking him to grant territory to District No. 6, to form a joint district of both counties.

January 7, 1874. (omitted by mistake) District No. 5 is formed by a petition of ten names consisting of T 16, R 14 and that part of T 16, R 15 lying north of the Middle Loup River. George Hay (3) was appointed to call a meeting January 18.

(Note: Mr. Eddy failed to record the formation of Districts 3 and 4. Rockville District 3 had Mrs. Rebecca Soule as director in 1873 and 1874. District 4 had John L. Hawk for director. List of Directors, p. 47).

January 17, 1874. This day District No. 7 is formed from T 13 and 14, R 16. John McGee was appointed to call the first meeting February 16. Attended a school meeting in District 2.

January 22, 1874. Attended School Meeting in District No. 6.

January 23, 1874. Returned to Loup City. By petition District No. 4 is enlarged by adding to it that part of T 15, R 15 lying south of the Middle Loup River.

February 6, 1874. Examination for teachers. Consulted about various school matters.

February 7, 1874. Consulted with district officers. In the evening delivered a lecture entitled "A Day in the Schoolroom."

February 14, 1874. Spent part of this day overseeing the seating of the School House in District No. 1.

February 16, 1874. Spent the entire forenoon helping Miss Gilbert organize the school in District 1.

February 27, 1874. Attended School Meeting in District No. 5. Appointed Jonathan Arthaud treasurer. Advised and appointed Director of District No. 6. Returned to Loup City.

March 2, 1874. Spent part of the afternoon in District No. 1. This day made a second call for organization in District No. 7. Appointed Wm. D. Wilson to call the first meeting the eleventh of March.

March 5, 1874. This day I prepared an examination for Third Grade (Certificate) and made three copies, occupying seven hours.

March 6, 1874. This day was appointed for the examination of candidates for teachers at Loup City. A certificate of Third Grade was granted Mrs. Clara Hawk. By petition of nearly all the legal voters in District No. 3 I set off District 8 embracing Sections 3 to 32 and the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of T 13, R 14.

Wrote out the forms for the organization of District No. 8, and went to Loup City to advise with the Directors of Districts No. 2 and No. 3.

March 11, 1874. Wrote to the Director of District No. 1 (Captain H. H. Travis). Examined Mrs. Tena Wilson to whom a Third Grade Certificate was given. Attended School Meeting in the evening.

March 12, 1874. Appointed Director of District No. 7. (Wm. D. Wilson). Came to Loup City. Wrote to the Director of District No. 3 (Mrs. Rebecca D. Soule).

Between March and April 14, 1874, Mr. Eddy mentions examining candidates who failed to pass, and "with a view to meeting the demands for teachers, wrote to Kearney for teachers." Noah Lehman was granted a certificate of Second Grade on March 28. On March 6 District No. 8 was encouraged to vote \$2500 in bonds.

On March 30 he had visited school in District No. 4, a walk of about 18 miles. (Mr. Eddy lived eight miles above Loup City, while District No. 4 was perhaps three miles south.)

April 16. Worked six hours on the County Superintendent's Annual Report.

April 17. Worked all forenoon on the Annual Report, which I completed and mailed this afternoon to the State Superintendent.

April 21, 1874. Completed ten hours of writing up this book, I have charged it in the Journal as one day's work.

April 22. Worked five hours this day in completing this book. Charged in the Journal as a half day's work.

April 25. After the special meeting at seven o'clock p.m. to locate a site for a schoolhouse in District No. 2, where, when no agreement was reached, the matter was left to County Superintendent J. Wesley Eddy, he decided upon "A parcel of land 203 ft. 8 inches from east to west and the same from north to south of the Section at the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 14, T 15N, 14 E," and gave this decision to the Director in writing, according to Form XV, School Laws of Nebraska."

A petition relating to the formation of School District No. 10 was received on June 12, 1874. Peter Truelsen was appointed to call the first meeting at the house of J. Wesley Eddy (who resided within the proposed district) on June 10, 1874. When a week passed and no meeting was held, Mr. Eddy on June 17 appointed himself as Director, Peter Truelsen, Moderator, and J. Miller, Treasurer.

District No. 11 was the last created under Mr. Eddy's superintendency. On September 29, 1875, the petition was transmitted to the

county clerk, Alfred Flint was appointed to call the first meeting at his home on Saturday, October 25, at one o'clock p.m.

The Special Report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for 1875 occupied seventeen hours on October 3 and 5, since it was made in triplicate, one for the county superintendent's office, two for that of the state superintendent. Included in the latter was a list of directors, a map of the school districts of the county, and a letter asking for printed questions for the next quarterly examination, all in one envelope. It was taken to the Loup City Post Office by R. W. Russell.

Mr. Eddy wrote a letter of resignation to the Board of County Commissioners, dated October 14, 1875.

Gentlemen: My health is too poor for me to be much longer exposed to the fatigue and rough weather attendant upon the duties of County Superintendent.

In consideration of this, I do most respectfully resign the said office . . .

Respectfully,
J. Wesley Eddy.

P.S.: The books and papers of the County Superintendent's Office will be ready for my successor as soon as a warrant of \$12 is drawn in my favor, that I may complete the financial part of the record.

J. Eddy.

Mr. Eddy seems to have been a many-sided personality. He had entered land in 34-16-15, on April 25, 1873, and had a house, where the meeting concerning District 10 was to be held June 10, 1874.

In a controversy over how many days he would be in his office, an inquiry of the County Commissioners in April, 1874, in their attempt to "fix" the compensation, Mr. Eddy refused. His reasons were that it was not required by law, quoting the law, and also quoting the State Supt. of Public Instruction, Hon. J. M. McKenzie. When the County Clerk stated that his report was missing, he replied that he had handed the letter with the report to John Hardenburg, by him to Mr. R. W. Russell and by said Russell to E. S. Atkinson.

He was also a minister of the gospel, performing some marriage ceremonies, including the first one in the county, that of Frank Ingram and Fannie J. Taylor, on December 18, 1873. But it was remembered by old-timers that he was also "a liberal consumer of wet goods". This may explain an entry in the probate judge's docket, September 1, 1874, when the State of Nebraska charged him with the "crime of burning the prairies." E. W. Denio, who taught District 1 to the extreme satisfaction of Mr. Eddy (Supt. Record, July 22, 1875) acted for the State, while O. B. Willard defended Eddy. Witnesses were C. R. Hawkins, Wm. Benschoter, Capt. Cloth. The defendant pleaded not guilty, was fined \$20.00 and costs, a total of \$34.93 by Frank Ingram, county judge. The sheriff was paid his costs, apparently the only payment in the case.

Under succeeding county superintendents, the creation of school districts proceeded by cutting off from the original ones as population

increased. Following the settlement of the B & M railroad land tax controversy, there was a great influx of settlers.

H. A. Gladding was appointed by the county commissioners to succeed Mr. Eddy, on October 23, 1875. In his flowing Spencerian he recorded the apportionment of State School Funds according to the enrollment of scholars, the sum of \$393.85 for January 14, 1876. In January there were 13 districts listed, with no school in districts 11, 12, 13. On June 24, 1876, sixteen districts were listed, with no scholars in Districts No. 16 and No. 9. The numbers of pupils per district:

District	Scholars	District	Scholars
1	39	9	0
2	21	10	11
3	26	11	4
4	17	12	11
5	6	13	16
6	10	14	9
7	10	15	10
8	12	16	0

In June, 1877, the State Fund supplied \$105.29; the Dog Tax added ninety-nine cents. Eighteen districts were listed, although districts 5 and 11 had only two pupils and district 9 (again) none. By 1880 twenty-nine districts were listed by County Supt. M. H. Mead. The largest enrollment was District No. 1, with 80; the smallest, District No. 29 with 8. District 4 had 38; No. 7, 35; 22, 31; 12, 27.

Enrollment Report, 1880.

Enrollment Report, 1880			
District	Scholars	District	Scholars
1	80	15	20
2	18	16	13
3	20	17	21
4	38	18	23
5	16	19	24
6		20	31
7	35	22	32
8	12	24	29
12	27	26	22
13	31	28	11
14	24	29	8

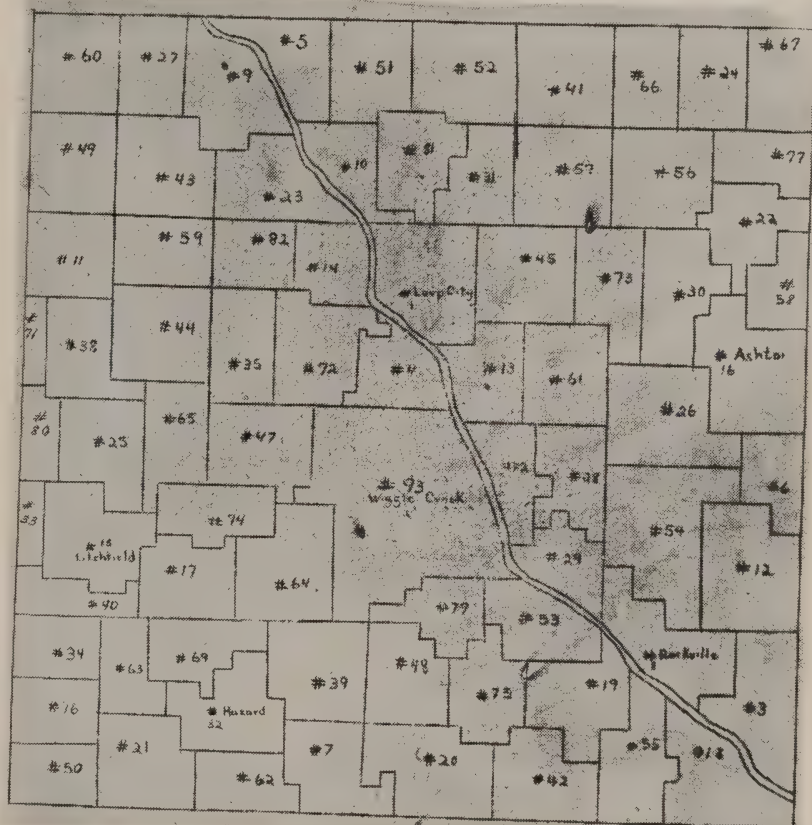
Until the late '80's, over half of schools in the county seem to have been of sod construction, with a few semi-dugout. School was often held in a private residence (District 19, 1879). District 10 was held in the log house of bachelor August Jung in 1883. The superintendent's report noted the lack of toilet facilities in the districts. Books were furnished by the pupils, with a lack or variety of texts most discouraging. Reports might note of an enrolled pupil "attended one day" or "two days." Those eager to learn did well.

County Superintendent H. L. Burns (also a preacher) reflected conditions:

December 5, 1887. I find in this district a poor shell of a house with old benches very uncomfortable to sit upon. The district is well off but for some reason has failed to furnish this year. The school is quite well attended and has a promising appearance. The pupils are studious and orderly and the lessons quite well learned. The teacher is active and earnest,

and the instruction is fair, good indeed, considering the advantages he has not. Without maps, charts, globes or a tellurian, with a poor blackboard, and a room in sad need of repair, who could expect to do very thorough work. The walls are black with great grinning patches of bare lath shining through the plaster. (Teacher, Harlan A. Young, educated at LaDora, Iowa).

February 23, 1888. District 16. Frame 16x40. Fine day, a fine school, fine teacher, a good house, neat and clean.



MAP OF SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS, 1950

(Courtesy of County Superintendent)

(G. W. Kennedy, teacher, 28 years old. Educated at Canterbury, Ohio).

District 40. Sod. Ada Wilbur, teacher. House damp and cold, roof leaks, water standing on the floor. Miss Wilbur is qualified of a larger work. She should seek a better field of labor and I will aid her to secure such a field.

Of another district, on January 1, 1888, the report began:

Sod, 16x24, no ventilation—5 windows. Six benches ten feet long. Mere excuse of a desk, good stove, a 3x6 blackboard. 3 months term, teacher has taught twelve terms. Number of scholars in district 52; twenty-four enrolled, 15 present . . . house unkept, dirty floor. Books torn, back off, general appearance of indifference. School badly confused in consequence

of a mixture of books . . . If patrons would adopt uniformity (in texts) school would be greatly benefited. Scholars generally bright and clean . . . This is such a fine day. All Nature seems bending down as if to give to man the opportunity for advancement. How different in this school . . .

The schools were often social centers. Here Sunday School or preaching was held on Sunday; on Friday night literaries in which adults took the lead. Democracy in its purest form, with the voters (including mothers of children of school age) expressing their opinion, at the annual meeting, on questions ranging from water supply to the ability of the teacher. Neighborhood feuds waxed and waned; scholars were transferred from one district to another; the schoolhouse might be moved from one location to another, yet the American belief in free education found expression.

By 1914, there were 81 school districts in the county. Free textbooks had been the rule since a state law passed in 1891; school libraries, based on enrollment and other data, were required; all buildings were either frame or brick; teachers were better trained; school attendance steadily increased.

District	From	Date
1		
2		Nov. 15, 1873
3		Dec. 11, 1873
4		Dec. 31, 1873
5	District No. 1	Jan. 7, 1874
6	District No. 1 and 2	Jan. 9, 1874
7	By county Sup't without advice from anyone	Jan. 9, 1874
8	From District No. 3	March 7, 1874
9	District 1 () s. of Middle Loup R.	Sept. 29, 1875
10	District No. 5	Sept., 1875
11	District 1 & 4	Sept. 29, 1875
12	District 5 and with Valley Co. (T 17, R 13)	July 8, 1875
13	District No. 1	Sept. 17, 1875
14	Districts 4, 9, 11	Febr. 7, 1876
15	District 15 from District 11	March 1, 1876
16	District No. 6	March 15, 1876
17	District No. 11	Febr. 3, 1877
18	District 3 & 8	Febr. 19, 1877
19	District 18	Dec., 1878
20	District 3, 7, 8, 19	Jan. 9, 1879
21	District No. 7	Jan. 18, 1879
22	District 10 & 6	April 10, 1879
23	District No. 1	April 30, 1879
24	District No. 12	May 17, 1879
25	District No. 11	June 23, 1879
26		March 27, 1880
27		July 7, 1879
28	District 2 (note on formation)	March 27, 1880
29	District No. 2	March 29, 1880
30	District No. 1	Sept. 29, 1880
31	District No. 10 & 5	Sept. 30, 1882
32	District 21	Oct. 14, 1882
33	Union with Custer County	Nov. 4, 1882
34	From District No. 21	Nov. 18, 1882
35	District 14	Dec. 5, 1882
36	District 4	Jan. 2, 1883
37	District 36	Completed July 7, 1886
38	District No. 11	April 5, 1883
39	District No. 7	March 29, 1883

40	District No. 15.....	Aug. 11, 1883
41	District 31	Dec. 29, 1883
42	District 18, 19, 20.....	March 18, 1884
43	District No. 27.....	March 22, 1884
44	District No. 38.....	March 19, 1884
45	District No. 13.....	March 22, 1884
46	District 36	Sept. 4, 1884
47	District No. 17.....	Jan. 7, 1885
48	District No. 20.....	Jan. 7, 1885
49	Sec. 4 33, T 16, R 16.....	March 20, 1885
50	District No. 21.....	March 16, 1885
51	District No. 5.....	March 26, 1885
52	District No. 41.....	March 24, 1885
53	District No. 19 & 37.....	March 24, 1885
54	District No. 21 & 32.....	March 24, 1885
55	District No. 8.....	Jan. 13, 1886
56	District No. 34 & 21.....	Jan. 13, 1886
57	Joint with Valley County.....	Febr. 1, 1886
58	Joint from District 22 with Howard County.....	April 5, 1886
59	District No. 11 & 44.....	March 4, 1887
60	District No. 49.....	Febr. 28, 1887
61	District No. 13.....	April 4, 1887
62	District 7 & 21.....	April 2, 1887
63	District 21	April 2, 1887
64	District No. 17 and 46.....	Febr. 20, 1888
65	District No. 47.....	Jan. 9, 1889
66	District No. 24.....	March 16, 1889
67	District No. 24.....	March 16, 1887
68	Joint District with Buffalo County.....	Nov. 16, 1889
69	District No. 32.....	May 7, 1890
70	Joint with District 21 of Buffalo County.....	March 16, 1892
71	District 38 and Union with District 251 of Custer County	Oct. 20, 1893
72	District No. 35.....	Dec. 7, 1893
73	District No. 30 & 45.....	March 14, 1899
74	District No. 17.....	Febr. 14, 1901
75	District No. 48.....	March 18, 1905
76	District No. 50 & 34.....	March 3, 1906
77	District 22	
78	
79	
80	
81	
82	District No. 14.....	1922
93	From Parts of Dist. 4, 36, 46, 53, 78.....	1919

The reason for the lapse of numbers is due to the redistricting plan for consolidated schools, which made Wiggle Creek District No. 93.

A bill for consolidation of rural schools passed the legislature in 1919. Superintendent of Sherman County Schools L. H. Currier and a redistricting committee, W. F. McDonald, A. F. Kuhn, and J. H. Welty worked out a plan which provided for 23 districts which would have "more equitable boundaries." Numbers were to begin with 81 and run through 104. Where there were already joint districts with neighboring counties, those sections of the adjacent joint-county districts were included.

There was little enthusiasm for the plan. An organization opposed to redistricting, headed by Ray Gourley, Ed Manchester, Clem N. Myers and J. C. Minshall, held a meeting at the courthouse in February, 1920.

A petition for a consolidated district, outlined as No. 93, was received September 18, 1920. The Wiggle Creek Schoolhouse barely three years old had been struck by lightning and burned. The voting on the question of consolidation for District No. 93, Wiggle Creek, on October 12, was 49 for and 23 against. Parts of districts 4, 78, 36, 53, and 46 were to be included. The first district meeting of 93 was held November 5, 1920, at the Wiggle Creek M. E. Church.

The contract for the new building was let in April, 1921. Insurance on the burned building was an aid in financing the two-story, four-room stucco building to be built. W. H. Rettenmayer was awarded the carpentry contract, J. A. Reiman, cement, and Reed & Grow, plumbing. The building was dedicated November 11, 1921 with Clifford Rein, Lincoln attorney and native of Sherman County as the speaker. Fred Daddow, Ernest Daddow and G. B. Wilkie were the members of the board.

Several of the other now-vacated district school buildings were moved near the new building in August, 1922 and converted into teacherages. Professor and Mrs. L. C. Mockett were the first high school teachers.

High school work, two years at times, has fluctuated with shifting population. At present there are two teachers.

Another consolidated district planned was No. 104, four miles east of Hazard. J. A. Shroyer, author of the Nebraska School Consolidation Bill, spoke at the "Shetler School", (District No. 25) Tuesday, July 13, 1920. This failed to carry.

One of the chief objections to consolidated school districts is the one of transportation. District school meetings also were the purest form of democracy. For various reasons, rural schools are often closed, and pupils sent to some other school, often into town. During World War II, Rockville sent its high school students to Loup City, using a bus. District No. 10 with a fine cement block building, full basement, a "Standard School", is sending its pupils to Loup City. With the decline in rural population and for other reasons, twenty-nine school districts were closed in 1951.

2. Loup City Schools

The first school building of District No. 1, Loup City, stood northwest of the present site of the Keystone Lumber Company. Mrs. Minnie Wall Johansen in 1933 said its completion and that of the new Middle Loup Bridge were celebrated with a grand ball in the newly completed store of A. L. Tutton on January 1, 1874.

Miss Susie Gilbert was the first teacher. This building was later moved to main street and used as an office. This frame building was paid for by the issuing of nine bonds of \$500 each, payable October 1, 1883, interest 10 per cent. (Hunnewell v. Sherman County, 252D, U. S. Circuit Court, Omaha, Nebr.). When the B & M protested the paying of taxes it declared the voting of bonds contrary to law, and the levy more so, because it had not been made on the first Tuesday in

June, 1873. (The county had been organized April 1; first recorded commissioner's proceedings are dated June 28, 1873.)

Early directors of the district were Capt. H. H. Travis, 1873-74; H. W. Humes, 1875; H. A. Gladding, 1876-79. E. W. Denio was the second teacher; Mrs. H. A. Gladding the third. Pupils in Miss Katie Kilpatrick's term from October 11, 1878 to January 3, 1879 were:

John Benschoter, 12; Jake Benschoter, 10; Bertie Hale, 8; Arthur Rosseter, 8; Sim Brown, 10; Ed Brown, 14; Jesse Brunbaugh, 14; Fred Brunbaugh, 6; Grant Cookingham, 10; Will Rosseter, 14; Minnie Wall, 12; Allie Rosseter, 11; Hattie Rosseter, 9; Mary Baillie, 20; Alice Gilbert, 19; Haddie Quinton, 16.

New pupils in December: George Winkleman, 14; Jake Winkleman, 8; Ida Brown, 12; Martin Brumbaugh, 11; Ella Winkleman, 10.

Mrs. Minnie Wall Johansen described taking her only book, a fourth reader, when she entered the school. She had been taught at home, so that she was more advanced than many of the pupils.

Viola Rosseter, the eldest of that family, attended several terms at the "Academy" at Gibbon.

Since pupils furnished their own books, they "began" where they had "left off" in the text on the preceding term. Older pupils often enrolled to study some one subject, such as bookkeeping or arithmetic. The subjects taught were: mental arithmetic, geography, orthography, penmanship, reading, history. Twenty-four pupils were enrolled; 16 in attendance; visits of county superintendent, 2; of director, 2. The frame building scarcely six years old was reported in "medium" repair. Enrollment in the district was 39 in 1876; 28 in 1877 (the grasshoppers and an Indian scare reduced the population); 54 in 1879 (there were two terms of school); 80 in 1880.

Because of crowded conditions, and to "get the kids out of town", (as Robert Young recalls it) a two-story frame building with tower and outside staircase was built on the high bluff north of Jenner's Park in 1883. Block 9 in Benschoter's First Addition had been bought by the school board. The distance from town meant that practically all the children "took their dinners". In fall and spring each one had a seat in a certain tree, reports Mrs. Nettie Conger Steen, and adds, "and woe-betide any one who took some one's seat".

The building, built by W. T. Gibson, at the time of building was said to have been one of the best in town, but because of the buffetings of winds, by 1887 it was termed a "rattling trap." There were at this time four departments in the school, but by 1887, a primary school to house the four lower grades was built. This building, which cost \$1,000, stood where Mrs. Cora Hancock's home now is. The upper grades continued to be housed on the hill until 1896 when it was damaged by the June storm. High school subjects were taught, and the first graduating class, Mattie Snyder, Lillian Nightingale, and Myrtle Wilson, was graduated on May 9, 1891. Due to the hard times, there were only three teachers in 1892. (An interesting side-light on school is given in a news item of October, 1891):

Prof. Worrell and Maud Scott in high school lead in hopscotch; Prof. Martin and Willie Mulick in the lower grades. (Every male instructor was a "professor" in those days).

In the fall of 1896, since the schoolhouse on the hill was untenable, rooms were rented in the lower story of the Smith Opera House, (site of Sacred Heart Hospital). The second high school class was graduated from the tenth grade in 1897. When the Smith Opera House burned March 7, 1899, high school classes were transferred to the Baptist Church, the grammar department to the Methodist Church, while the intermediate department met in a room in the Porter Block, west of the courthouse.

A site for a new schoolhouse was chosen in 1898, Bl. 38, the present grade school block. A two story brick building was constructed by Ohlsen Brothers; the cornerstone was laid August 10, 1899; and school was held there in January, 1900. A. P. Culley banker, donated the bell, which cost \$104.00. The rooms were at this time heated by stoves. Mr. Culley bought the primary building for \$381.00. One half (it was a long two-room building) was moved to main street, while the remainder was moved to the center of the lots and converted into a residence by A. E. Chase, (now occupied by Mrs. Cora Hancock). (Misc. Rec. I, p. 196; Deed Rec. 5, p. 57). The year 1901 saw the Loup City School closed abruptly in March, because of a small-pox epidemic. It was reopened August 1 with graduation exercises held on October 2, 1902. The next nine months term ended June 20, 1903.

A furnace was installed in 1903. W. R. Mellor, who had been treasurer of District No. 1 when the People's State Bank failed in 1888, although he was not legally obligated, returned to the district \$1,335.29, the amount still lost to the district. The trustees promptly voted to install a furnace.

Increased enrollment led to the excavation of the entire basement of the building in 1910 to accommodate the increased enrollment. Later, first grade sessions were held in the German Church and in a building west of the courthouse.

Agitation for a separate building to house the high school resulted in purchase of Bl. 1, toward Jenner's park on Main Street in 1915. \$2,700 was paid for the site. Bonds were voted in May, John Ohlsen and Sons awarded the contract in October and the high school building, 77 x 80, three stories high of pressed brick with fireproof corridors and stairs, oak finish throughout, was dedicated August 27, 1915. Its cost was \$30,000. (Two women were members of the six-member board at this time, Mrs. J. A. Amick and Mrs. A. B. Outhouse. Only once before had women been on the school board, Mrs. A. B. McPherson and Mrs. T. L. Pilger, in 1896).

The Smith-Hughes building to house a combined auditorium-gymnasium, and the Vocational Agriculture courses, was built in 1936. A 45 per cent grant from the federal government won the voters, 485-124. The cost was \$46,000.00.

Home Economics began in the Loup City schools in 1910, with a group meeting in the M. E. Church basement once a week under the guidance of Mrs. W. R. Boyce, an excellent cook. Work was done individually in homes. A full-time faculty instructor was added in 1912.

The course was discontinued in 1933 largely because the State Department of Education refused accreditation of such work in basement rooms.

Commercial courses were introduced in 1917. Music instruction began in 1910, when Miss Elva Zimmerman directed a glee club. In the late '20's there was a full time vocal instructor and one for instrumental work. In 1927, Loup City High School Orchestra under the direction of Supt. F. Schneider, won first in Class B at the State Music Contest. One instructor now handles both vocal and instrumental music.

Football began in Loup City in 1909 when the high school pupils gave an ice-cream social to raise money for a coach. Night football began in 1934 after installation of flood lights at the fairgrounds. Previously games had been played on the ball diamond south of Jenner's Park.

Courses varied greatly. In 1889, a "yearly examination" was given in these subjects: German, Botany, Civil Government, Geology, Chemistry, Physics, Literature, History, Geometry, Algebra, Reading, Arithmetic, Physiology, Bookkeeping, Orthography. (Times, 1889).

As for endurance, the school exercises of the first Commencement lasted from 7:30 to midnite (1891). An editorial comment was that the performers could scarcely be heard because of talk in the hall and the crying of babies.

The first twelfth grade to be graduated, in 1906, consisted of but three members, as had the class of 1891: Raymond V. Kearns, Leslie F. Sweetland, Meroe J. Outhouse. A number who had been with this group in the eleventh grade, had attended academies elsewhere, fearing that the school was not accredited. The two boys became Presbyterian ministers while the girl became a teacher.

Heads of the Loup City Schools from 1891 to the present:

1891, M. H. Carleton; 1892-96, L. M. Worrell; 1896-1904, M. H. Mead; 1904-05, W. R. Huffman (11th grade added at this time); Sept.-Jan.—Briggs, Jan. to May, 1906-1909, R. E. Dale (12th grade added); 1909-11, Jas. O'Connell; 1911-13, Miss Abi E. Beynon; 1913-16, J. H. Burwell; 1916-Nov. 1918, C. R. Bitner (died with flu); 1918-19, Miss Adeline Leininger; 1919-20, W. H. Plourd; 1920-21, Edgar Mallott; 1921-36, F. D. Schneider; 1935-Feb. 1944, F. A. Archerd; 1944-present, Karl Pecht.

Since only those interested in school attended in early years, they generally studied diligently. For a number of years grades were published weekly, including deportment!, which may have made the pupils serious about their studies. The story of Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor Lyman proves this.

Mrs. Lyman, married at 17, found herself within a few years divorced and responsible for her own and her daughter's support. While engaged in nursing near Farwell, she earned the favor of a Catholic priest. He persuaded her to apply for entrance in the Creighton University College of Medicine. Extremely doubtful, she presented letters of introduction he had given her. When asked where and what she had studied in Anatomy or Physiology, she replied, "Steele's Anatomy, in Loup City High School." She was admitted to the college

of medicine, engaged in nursing to make a living, and was graduated, to practice in Omaha until her death in 1949. (Interview, September 19, 1948).

District No. 1 was organized as a high school district when a petition was presented to the county superintendent (Bk. II, Sup't Journal, p. 162) by Director C. H. E. Heath on April 4, 1887. The board of trustees appointed were: G. M. Raymond and J. S. Pedler, one year; R. J. Nightingale and G. H. Gibson, two years; J. R. Scott and W. R. Mellor, three years. Mr. Scott was chosen moderator; Mr. Nightingale, secretary and Mr. Mellor treasurer.

3. District No. 3

Souleville school district No. 3 organized in 1874, was reduced in size by the setting off of District No. 8 on March 7, 1874. In 1873-74 Mrs. Rebecca D. Soule is listed as the director of District No. 3; 1875, George Turpin; 1878-79, Noah D. Vanscoy; 1880, Samuel Fair.

Twenty-six scholars were enumerated in 1876; 15 in 1877; perhaps some had left because of Indian scares and grasshoppers. The first school is said to have been a dug-out on the bank just north of the home now occupied by John Seiffert. Later a frame building was built half-way between the Young and Soule homesteads. When the hills as well as the river valley and railroad land was settled, a more central location for a school was demanded. The board slyly moved the schoolhouse a short distance, which forced the patrons to wait another year.

The report for the term ending March 19, 1878, with J. H. Vanscoy as teacher, lists these pupils: W. A. Vanscoy, 14; Willie Soule, 8; George Young, 8; Frank Young, 6; George Soule, 13; Mary Carlton, 15; Hattie Soule, 15, (absent all February and March). There were 5 and $\frac{3}{4}$ square yards of blackboard, no toilet facilities. J. A. Raymond was teacher Dec. 21, 1882, to March 10, 1883. Samuel J. Fair was director. Children came from these families: Fair, Birkholz, Gust, Young, Hains(?).

Harlan A. Young, educated at LaDora, Iowa, was the teacher in 1887, when County Superintendent Burns was very disturbed that the prosperous school district had such a poor building, with "seats like grandfather used".

In contrast is the excellent building which is the Souleville schoolhouse today, stage, kitchen, two rooms with sliding partitions, as described by Mrs. John Seiffert in her account of the community written in 1948. (Times, July 1).

(Note): The early-day post office had the spelling Souleville, probably because the name of the family was Soule. Today the first "e" is often omitted.

4. District 8, Rockville

District No. 8, the Rockville School, was organized March 7, 1874, from District No. 3 (Souleville), "in response to a petition of nearly all the legal voters", according to Superintendent of Schools J. Wesley

Eddy. It included Sections 3-32 of T 13, R 13, and one half of T 13, R. 14. C. E. Webster was director from 1873 to 1885.

Mr. Lamont L. Stephens writes of the first school house: (Times, July 1, 1948):

It was of sod, with a roof made by laying cottonwood poles from wall to another, then willow brush on the poles, then sod on the brush, and the whole made nearly waterproof with clay. The building was snug and warm, but this unfortunately was discovered by some snakes. Later, a red frame building was substituted.

The third building occupied by District No. 8 was a one-room frame structure with a belfry and "clamorous" bell, built west of the present schoolhouse after Rockville village was started. (1886). The county superintendent's report for 1887 named J. C. Bartleson Director, A. L. Barneby teacher. This frame building was 26 x 40, with 11 windows; plenty of blackboard, patent desks, and a teacher's desk. Forty-one pupils between the ages of 7 and 15 were enrolled, with 30 in attendance on the day of the visit, December 16, 1887. Mr. Burn's says of the teacher's education, "he pounded it out himself". Mr. Barneby was from Missouri, rated as well-qualified, and an expert in mathematics. The day of this second visit, Febr. 22, 1887, was

cold, with wind from the northwest, dark in the room. A bad boy in this school is troubling the whole work.

The fourth and present building, a two-story brick, was built in 1925.

Heads of the Rockville school since 1912 have been:

1911-12—L. A. Currier	1926-28—Frances Corning
1912-13—J. H. Burwell	1928-38—Otto Kucera
1913-14—I. M. Ostrey	1938-39—Theodore J. Preston
1914-15—W. E. Price	1939-41—H. E. Reeves
1915-17—J. L. W. Martin	1941-43—R. L. Scott
1918-20—J. W. Martin	1945-46—D. O. Larson
1920-21—Mrs. M. E. Treon	1947-49—Contracted with Loup
1922-23—Evelyn Nielson	City
1924-25—Mrs. Evelyn Bartunek	1950-51—Alfred O. Fox
1925-26—Dail Burkenshaw	1951—J. C. Greenland

5. District No. 16, Ashton

District No. 16, which became the Ashton school, was organized according to records in the county superintendent's office, on March 15, 1878, when sections 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, 35 of T 15, R 13W was cut off from District No. 6, a joint district with Howard County. Jonathan Arthaud, whose address was given as Kelso, Howard County, was director in 1877 and 1878. Eight scholars were reported in 1877, thirteen in 1880 and twenty-two in 1881. Jost Blumer was director in 1882; Christian Arthaud director in 1885. Pupils were listed from the families of Blumer, Maholsky, Cook, Arthaud, Baker, Bly, Rapp, and Zwinck. County Superintendent H. L. Burns reported after his visit in February 23, 1887, a frame building with six windows. The teacher was 28 year old G. W. Kennedy, educated at Canterbury, Ohio, who had already taught 23 terms of school (three months the usual length). "Fine school, fine day, fine teacher, a good house, neat and clean", concludes the report.

Miss Lola Moffatt was teacher when District 16 was visited on October 23, 1888. Her education had been received at Loup City and Souleville. In 1890 a larger frame building was built at a cost of \$2,500. The old building was bought by John Stanka for his farm.

This building was replaced in June, 1903, by a two-story frame building, which was used until 1937. \$2800.00 was on hand, pay for this larger frame building. The present building of brick was built in 1937.

Heads of the Ashton school have been: 1904, Frank Meinke; 1912-13, Arlie Corning; 1914-15, Klea McNulty; 1916-18, Frances Corning; 1919-20; A. L. McDaniel and Frances Corning; 1919-20, Ernest C. Nyrop; 1920-21, Eva J. Ward; 1922-23, Marie Cooper; 1924-25; Frances Corning; 1926-28, Mamie V. Ryan; 1930-34, T. E. Gartland; 1935-38, Charles E. Kirchner 1939-44; Edgar A. Sears 1945-50; Charles W. Stovall, 1950, Jack Cadby.

6. History of Litchfield High School,

District No. 15

The first school in Litchfield was started in 1895 with eight grades. There is no information as to who the school administrators were until 1900 when two grades were added and F. W. Starkes became principal. From 1901 to 1904 C. M. Barr, Mr. Currier, and Mr. Omev principals; from 1904 to 1907 there is no available information concerning the school. In 1908 Marie A. Conley became principal and served for two terms bringing the account to the year 1911 when J. E. Shutt became her successor. Following his term the school was served in this capacity by Roy Stryker till 1914 and later the following persons: Ethel Heapy, Miss Grierson, and Miller Price.

1916 and 1917 were very eventful years for Litchfield High School for a new brick building was built and a 12 grade curriculum became effective. The building was finished in October, 1916. School was held every other Saturday to make up for September.

Up to this time, the school administrative head was a principal, but with a 12 grade organization, services of both principal and superintendent were needed. This addition brought the faculty up to its present size.

Superintendents from this time were Mr. Burwell, 1917-1920; Mr. Lester M. Samples, 1920-1933; Mr. Ross Bonham, 1933-39; Mr. Johnson, 1940; Mr. Morrow, 1940-42; Mr. Corwin Enevoldsen, 1942-1946; Mr. John Bower, 1947; and Mr. Fred Pokorney from 1947 to the present time.

The district voted a \$7,000 bond on August 23, 1929 for the purpose of building a Vocational Agriculture building. Mr. F. H. Allen was hired as teacher on April 3, 1930. He served in this capacity till 1934. His successors were in 1934-1936, Mr. Best; Mr. Konoke in 1938-1939. After his departure Mr. Rasmussen served as instructor until 1942 when the course was discontinued. It was reopened again in 1949, with Mr. Vance Pettett as teacher.

The auditorium was built in 1938, and the first basketball game was played in 1939, Litchfield vs. Arcadia.

The traditional last day of school picnic at Deadwater was started in 1944 when a special car was added to the local train

No. 40 going east in the morning; this furnished transportation to the picnic. No. 30, another local train, stopped in the afternoon and brought the crowd back to Litchfield.

The graduating class of 1919 received their diplomas in the old opera house over Lang's garage; the graduates sat in rocking chairs on the stage. There were eleven graduates in this second 12th grade class; the year before, it consisted of one graduate, Orville Glass.

This concludes the report on the history of L. H. S. up to the present time. The school seems to have a great future ahead of her. (Report of Paul Witt, student).

District No. 32, Hazard

Hazard School, District No. 32, came into existence October 14, 1882. Because of the cutting off of other districts from its territory, the Hazard District found itself without railroad land, an excellent source of revenue. This has made it difficult, along with a small population, to maintain a high school.

The first building was of sod, with one square yard of black board. In 1882 it was reported "in bad condition", but in 1883, when Rebecca E. Chase was teacher, the "mud" school was in good condition.

When the frame building was built is not known. In order to accommodate a high school course, a second story was added to the building in use. In recent years it has been impossible to maintain a high school course. After dropping it in 1945, a vigorous P. T. A. revived it in 1948. However, the effort proved too expensive, so Hazard at present offers instruction in grades one through eight.

Heads of the Hazard school have been: 1912, Myrtle Agnew; (high school records in state superintendent's office missing until) 1918-20, Ethel Heapy (10 grades); 1920-21, Frances Corning; 1921-22, Myrtle Hollenbeck; 1922-24, Lorena Robey; 1924-25, H. C. Norman (11 grades); 1925-26, Ed. N. Evans; 1926-29, H. E. Beatty; 1929-32, Charles E. Rollings (12 grades); 1929-32, S. A. Mulvaney; 1932-35, A. M. Frazee; 1935-39, L. A. Garner; 1939-45, Mrs. N. E. Vreeland; 1947-50, Violet Johnson; 1950, Robert Farley.

8. Parochial and Private Schools

Parochial schools were conducted by pastors of various Lutheran churches in Sherman County from time to time. Instruction was given in catechism, in German writing and the German language. The instruction was thorough, with earnest work by the students for the brief time the school was in session. A German minister held a school in Loup City in 1887 with adults, among them Mrs. A. P. Culley and Miss Minnie Wall attending. Such schools were held in connection with the Zeven Immanuel Lutheran Church, southwest of Ashton, the Hayestown Trinity Lutheran Church, the Germantown Lutheran Church of Hazard.

The Ashton parochial school (Catholic) opened in 1899; in 1951 it had three teachers and 70 pupils. The Loup City parochial school, opened in 1931, has four teachers and 120 pupils.

9. Kindergartens

Loup City has had private kindergartens three times, that of Miss Aimee Warren (Mrs. J. W. Conger) in 1892; that of Mrs. J. W. Jones, 1895-96; and Mrs. Lewis A. Brown, 1936. The Ashton parochial school included a kindergarten in 1921; Loup City parochial school began the kindergarten in 1950. Loup City Public Schools have had the kindergarten department since 1912.

10. Libraries

Mention is made of a library in Loup City in 1887, when E. C. Barton of St. Paul, who had a bookstore, operated a branch in Loup City. (Times, Jan. 31, 1888). In 1891 J. S. Pyke had a circulating library of 150 volumes. Charges were "10c for the first volume, with 5c to exchange." Through the Times he requested the return of books. (Times, Sept. 4, 1891)

Rockville began a public library association in May, 1888, with G. W. Wineteer secretary, and Mrs. W. H. Hawkins librarian. In June, 1888, an entertainment was given to raise funds for the library. Fifty members had paid 25c per person to start the library. (Times, May 24, June 14, 1888).

C. H. E. Heath, the Englishman, had an extensive private library, many of them classics. Books were exchanged with those interested.

During the nineties, the Methodist Sunday School had a library which filled the lack of books in many homes. The "Rolla" books, and Warner's "Wide, Wide World" were extremely popular.

In December, 1889 a free rest room and reading room was announced, located in the Bowman Restaurant in the Porter Block (west of the courthouse). The Chautauqua Reading Course, which had sold its course in Loup City, brought four or five volumes into a number of homes between 1888 and 1891.

Loup City was the first town in the state to receive free public library books, in December, 1901. The collection was at first located in Bennett's Barber Shop. Miss Edna Bullock, secretary of the Public Library Commission, supervised the installation. Robert Mathew collected money to purchase a bookcase for the books. Later they were located in Draper's Photograph Gallery. (Times, Jan. 14, 1902).

During this time both the Chase and Odendahl drugstores sold books. Genial "young" Dar Grow (D.D.) head clerk at Chase's, permitted many a high school student to read a recent addition while standing near the counter.

Agitation for a Carnegie Library was begun by the Woman's Unity Club in 1914. The citizens met the requirements of furnishing a suitable location and voting a levy for support, in order to receive \$8000.00 from the Carnegie Foundation toward the erection of a building. A site was chosen opposite the courthouse, on the northeast corner, the lots being purchased at a cost of \$1600.00. The entire cost of the building, erected by John Ohlsen and Sons, was \$11,927.00. Two public sub-

scriptions were collected. Various organizations undertook the furnishing of the reading rooms. It was formally opened Dec. 3, 1917.

Since the library is supported by a township levy, the east basement room serves as the regular meeting place for the Loup City Township board. It is also available for other meetings. Members of the board governing the Loup City Township Library are appointed for a term of five years. Present members are: A. L. Brown, C. F. Beusheusen, R. H. Mathew, O. L. Swanson,

The first librarian was Mrs. Minnie Wall Hansel, serving until September, 1920. Her daughter Frances finished her mother's term, when Mrs. Hansel became postmistress. Mrs. Dan McDonald was librarian from September, 1920 to August, 1931. Her Book Week observance featured programs for various grades of school children, furnished by city organizations, especially the women's groups, with a treat at the end.

Miss Harriet Gallaway has been librarian since August, 1931. Building miniature scenes taken from eight books adapted to pupils from kindergarten through high school, she tells the stories every forty minutes for four weeks. Adults visit in the evening. There is always a castle, and at least one mystery. The year of the stratosphere flight in Rapid City, South Dakota, the stratosphere built by Miss Gallaway was later borrowed by the Los Angeles Manual Arts School. In Loup City, the issue of the National Geographic from which the illustration was taken, "wore out." This display attracts visitors for nearby towns; all schools of Sherman County visit it on schedule.

The Loup City library has 11,791 books (not including bound magazines), two daily papers and 61 magazines in circulation. Reported for 1950 were 34,667 books loaned; 34,403 persons in attendance; 54 meetings in the Assembly Room, 2,287 borrowers.

Rural school libraries have functioned since 1900. A supplementary rural library in the office of the county superintendent, was catalogued in 1940, as an NYA project.

Loup City High School has an excellent library, catalogued according to the Dewey System. The Loup City Township Library at times borrows from the State Public Library Commission books in Polish, German, Danish, and Bohemian.

The Litchfield Public Library was begun as a town project by the women of the community. At first it was housed in the school building, but later moved to a building on main street. A brick building was built on main street to house the collection in 1946. Mrs. G. A. Engleman is the present librarian. (Information furnished by librarians).

CHAPTER IV

AMUSEMENTS, MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS

1. Amusements

Because wild game was plentiful, hunting was the first sport of the pioneer. Deer, some elk, and small game, rabbits, quail, and prairie chickens were abundant, and a source of food. With the needle-guns issued by the government in 1874, good returns were assured.

Trapping along the river or creek was a means of livelihood for the Indians, who continued to come to Sherman County for some years. The white settlers learned to engage in it. Caves of white trappers along a stream were sometimes the first shelter of the settler. Dave Parkhurst and his father trapped in southern Sherman County and Buffalo County until after the turn of the century. (Ravenna News, June 7, 1951; letter, L. D. Cass, editor). This means of livelihood had the hazardous element of sport.

George L. Jackson recorded in his interview of Jas. R. Lang (Litchfield Monitor, Aug. 2, 1935) that T. J. Hereford, a hardware merchant of Grand Island, staked most of the trappers on Muddy and Clear Creek. Their supplies consisted of blankets, matches, lard, tobacco, salt, coffee, and flour. Trappers had "set" locations along the streams, and did not trespass. They hauled their traps and supplies to camp ground, and paid off the Grand Island merchant in the spring in hides or furs. L. and Whit Ketchum were located at Round Grove; Ace Hutton and Bill Thomas near the Muddy Mills School Site. As late as 1951 Earl Baillie secured a permit from the State to trap ten beavers, because of the damage done to timber along the river.

Wolf, coyote and prairie dog hunts were common. There has been a bounty on coyotes from time to time. During World War II, when there were few men to plan the hunts, coyotes became so destructive that a number of sheep raisers were forced to give up their flocks.

More than one boy had an enforced vacation from school, when he contacted a "polecat" or skunk, whose hide was worth something.

Fishing was also depended upon to augment the food supply. It is still popular, with the state stocking certain lakes regularly.

Yet living on game often became monotonous to the settler. The Central Nebraska Press, May 17, 1877 (publ. at Kearney) gives this impression:

"Of rabbits young and rabbits old,
Of rabbits hot and rabbits cold,
Of rabbits tender and rabbits tough,
Thank you, my lady, I've had enough."

The Middle Loup was a hunter's paradise for years. Officials of the two railroads came from Kansas City, Omaha, and other points to enjoy fall hunting. In 1888, the prairie chicken season was from

September first to January first. E. S. Hayhurst was referred to as a game merchant, who bought prairie chickens for shipping. (Times, Oct. 21, 1890). The menu of the "Opera House Restaurant" in January, 1887, listed "roasted mutton", "baked prairie chicken" and "baked rabbit". As late as September, 1888, just after the Tracy boys had put up the hay on the courthouse square, a covey of quail were noted there. Plover shooting was mentioned in May, 1887. When Frank Nightingale visited Loup City in 1894, the county officials invited him to "pick off" a rabbit at home in the fenced courtyard.

Hunting led to strange mishaps. When Walter Moon shot a deer, in order to take a saddle of venison to Iowa for Christmas, 1875, he broke only its front leg. Since his next and last shot failed he had to cut the animal's throat with his penknife. In doing this, he received a thrust from an antler throng, which penetrated one leg. However, he was able to take his meat to Iowa. (Book of Facts, p. 56).

The great sport in hunting of the present, that of Chinese pheasants, is peculiarly native to Sherman County, for the birds have propagated well there. They were introduced into central Nebraska through the efforts of a Ravenna trapshooter, C. W. Hochreiter. Pheasants so impressed Mr. Hochreiter, when attending a match in the Pacific Northwest in 1910, that upon his return home, he circulated a petition:

"We, the undersigned, agree to contribute the sums set opposite our several names, for the purpose of creating a fund with which to stock this territory with Chinese pheasants."

Sixty-six subscribed, with amounts varying from forty cents to three dollars. On May 13, 1910, a draft for \$80.10 was sent to Everett, Washington, for the first shipment of birds, which arrived May 28, 1910. The express bill was \$24.06. The Hochreiters built pens south of their home to raise the birds. Adam Helzer, Jean Kean, Lou and Charles Hochreiter assisted. Birds were sold to game wardens in different states, including Nebraska, to parties in Lincoln, Rockville, Ashton, and to farmers in the area. Hochreiters also sold settings of eggs. (Original subscription paper in possession of Dr. E. L. Dickerson, Ravenna, Nebr., Oct. 15, 1951).

Among Sherman County fanciers was Dr. E. L. Dickerson, and the late T. R. Lay, both of Rockville. Dr. Dickerson recalls that pens were built on the edge of town. The first night the two pairs were placed in a single cage. Next day, when the purchase was inspected, one cock had been killed by the other.

Mrs. Emily Wanek Amick (Mrs. C. G. Amick) remembers that her father had his pen on the hill back of their residence in Ashton, in 1911 and 1912.

"Father had a long run-way, with netting over the top, for the birds were wild. It was the job of my brother Clarence and myself to prepare their food. We chopped hard-boiled eggs, raw meat, green alfalfa for their special diet. They had to be watched, for they did lots of fighting. Sometimes the family were blamed for something which happened to the pheasants. Finally they became so numerous that my father let them go. Along with his canaries, and other bird pets, they made a beautiful display. (11-29-1951).

The pheasants were protected by law, so multiplied rapidly on farms. According to the Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, the state secured stock from pheasant farms in Silvertown, Oregon, and St. Charles, Ill., in 1923-24. When they increased to the point that they did damage to crops, Sherman County farmers asked permission to shoot them. The reply from the state was that the farmers only wanted "free" shooting. This unjustified statement led the Sherman County Board of Supervisors to suggest that an apology was in order. (Sup. Rec. VIII, p. 48, 1922).

In February, 1925, 250 permits to trap pheasants were granted to the counties of Sherman, Valley, Greeley and Buffalo (northeast). 243 were applied for. The birds were to be caged in pairs, with pay at the rate of \$2.00 per pair. The usual method of capture was to blind them at night with car headlights. Some used a butterfly net-affair, reaching from a perch on the hood of the car. (Times, Febr. 18, 1925)

To correct the false impression made by the Fish and Game Department, Secretary of Roads and Irrigation, McLaughlin, with a state game warden, visited Loup City in May, 1926. The county board was given permission to vote an open season if they felt the birds were damaging the corn. On October, 1925, the Times editor commented: "Every time a pheasant is killed, it means the loss of less corn; they will eat as much as a turkey".

In the county vote on open season, three townships in the southern part of the county were excluded, Hazard, Scott and Harrison. The bag limit was five per person, no hens. (Times, Sept. 9, 16, Oct. 7, 1926). The season lasted three days in 1927, ten days in 1928. Trapper permits were again issued in 1927 to 1600 trappers in Howard, Sherman, and Valley Counties, the birds to be planted in eastern, southern and northwestern Nebraska where wanted. (Outdoor Nebraska, Summer, 1951).

1928 was a banner year in Sherman County. Enthusiastic hunters ended the day with a crow shoot. In 1930 men of the M. E. Church began serving a pheasant dinner, a custom continued for several years.

1931 and 1932 were big seasons, with ten days of shooting. In the trapping of 1934, 3,000 were captured at the price of fifty cents a bird. Due to the drouth, there was no open season in 1936. With the return of rains, the farmers again asked for aid in control, as in 1940. 1947 had ten half-days of shooting, but 1951 was a long season, October 26, to November 25, limit five birds per day. The plentiful cover of 1951 made hunting difficult.

Prairie chickens and quail are coming back in Sherman County, with protection. Partridges were released on the Lang farm, north of Litchfield. (Times, Jan. 2, 1951.) The hunter of early days, who recalls the time of no fences, few fields and great numbers of quail and prairie chicken, talks of a golden age for hunters.

Horse-racing was one of the early day-sports. Mrs. Alice Willard told of a horse-race with a pony owned by the Rev. Abram Maxwell as one of the principals. It was ridden by her brother, who had taken the

minister's pony "Humpback" from the stable without the owner's knowledge. "Happy Harry", an old pony owned by John Harkins, had been a race horse and could be depended upon to win. The minister arrived on the scene just as his pony came in first. He shouted with the crowd, but later, when the editor commented in his column, the minister replied from the pulpit. It was understood that the Rev. Maxwell's objection to horse-racing lay in the betting connected with it. This race occurred during the first county fair in 1879.

When H. M. Mathew lived on his farm south of Loup City, the English crowd trained their ponies and held races there. Mr. Henry Jenner tells of breaking Indian ponies for sport, but having fine horses for the steeple and paper chase.

Four jumps were used in the steeple chase. Mr. Jenner's "Old Fred" won one race, but the next went to the Reed Brothers of Arcadia, who had the horse "Joker" mounted by a professional jockey named Velder.

Mr. Jenner's brother Robert introduced from South Africa a new sport, wrestling on horse-back. The secret of winning lay in having the pony trained to keep his neck up, while the rider slid beneath him and tried to dismount his opponent. First featured at the Barbecue of June 4, 1886, (arrival of the Union Pacific) it was stopped after Robert Jenner had unseated four opponents, on the ground of danger to contestants.

There was an excellent race track at the fair grounds south of town. Dr. W. T. Marcy and Dr. J. W. Jones had two-wheeled rigs to drive up the valley. Hempel Jones, son of Dr. J. W. Jones was a popular jockey because of his small size. "Mike" Mulick and J. B. O'Bryan generally had fine race horses. Other enthusiasts have been C. W. Conhiser, C. C. Outhouse and E. A. Keeler.

The "paper" chase was originated by the English group, with the ladies taking part. Two riders rode ahead, scattering bits of torn paper from sacks. Then the group, riding in pairs, followed the trail over hill and down "draw". When the paper bags were found on the ground, the half-mile race to their destination was begun. Often the young ladies suffered "spills", for they rode side-saddle.

The Northwestern, Oct. 27, 1887, describes such an entertainment:

"The following young ladies and gentlemen were participants in the paper chase last Thursday, given by the Messers Mathew and Jenner. The Misses Minnie Wall, Ella Long, Laura Smith, Mrs. H. M. Mathew, Mrs. H. Smelser, Mrs. Scruggs, and Miss Powell from Fullerton; the Messers Robert and Henry Jenner, E. Milburn, J. W. Long, H. M. Mathew, L. N. Smith, and H. Smelser.

Miss Powell, with her escort, was the winner of the race, receiving a very fine riding whip. The day was a beautiful one, a fact that lent much enjoyment to the affair. A short time was spent at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Mathew, a couple well known for their social qualities and as entertainers. The start was made at ten-thirty and after the race a most enjoyable time was spent at the Jenner Brothers, who spared no pains to make their company feel at home. A picnic dinner was indulged in, and about five o'clock the jolly riders

returned to town. In the evening the English gentlemen gave a quiet but enjoyable ball at the opera house, in honor of their guests. So ended the paper chase."

For the steeple chase, jumps were built on the meadow of the Mathew place. The first jump was over a brush $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. Next came the double jump of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet, concluding with the fence and water jump.

Roller skating was a fad periodically. At the Wichman pavilion, west of town, it was enjoyed in the 1920's. Loup City had a bowling alley in 1896.

C. W. Conhiser and Miss Ella R. Long made fencing a hobby about 1898. "Captain" Winkleman was often a partner.

Saddle Clubs take the place of the riding of early days. Those of Litchfield and Ravenna were especially helpful in the Diamond Jubilee of 1948. Mrs. Viola Obermiller was active in arranging for riders, and locating side-saddles, no longer used by the ladies. Dr. C. G. Amick maintained a stable in northeast Loup City for several years.

Golf had as interesting and as abrupt a beginning in Sherman County as any sport could have. Mr. Montague Worlock, brother-in-law of H. M. Mathew, and family reached Loup City on Sunday, March, 1913. Sunday trains were not the rule, but a snowstorm had caused the delay. When Mr. Worlock descended from the train, his golf clubs were with him. By the time the heavy snow had disappeared, Mr. Worlock had created enough interest in the sport to have the site for a golf course in the making. It was decided to use the pasture north of the J. W. Long residence. Mr. Long himself became enthusiastic, and permitted his home to be used as an impromptu club house.

The course was hazardous, involving shooting across ravines, up the side of hills, and out of all sorts of pockets. For that reason, Sherman County golfers were among the best. E. J. Maus, Al Stimfig, R. H. Mathew, the Worlocks, Senior and Junior, contended in tournaments at Kearney, Lincoln, and were well-known and well-liked.

Golfers in 1920 were John W. Long, Rev. E. H. Maynard, Chris Johanson, O. L. Swanson, M. L. Biemond, R. H. Mathew, Roy Campbell, E. J. Maus, L. G. Lofholm, A. J. Johnson, A. H. Stimfig, and Carl Dieterich, L. B. Polski, A. R. Outhouse.

Interest in the game declined; Mr. Long became ill, and for some years after his death in 1931 there was little activity. Then a new course was located south of town, when Miss Betty Rettenmeyer's pasture, three miles south of town on the Wiggle Creek Road, (one half mile east of the Hawk schoolhouse), was rented. Oscar Swanson, the Rev. Chamberlain, Harry and Ed Lewandowski were seasoned players.

Possibly the first girls' basketball games in the county occurred in the summer of 1906. Miss Anne Clapp, a daughter of the woman's physical education director of the University of Nebraska, was spending her vacation with an aunt, Mrs. H. B. Musser, on the Stenger

farm north of Loup City. She organized and coached a group of Loup City girls, who played on a court east of the courthouse, on the site of the present clinic.

The mothers of the girls enrolled for the course received directions concerning the making of the blouses and full bloomers, but added a touch of their own. To make the costume more "lady-like", over the bloomers was worn a full gathered sateen skirt (black sateen was the material used). Since the skirts were short, they perhaps did not interfere with activity, but did add to discomfort due to heat. In 1907, Mr. Henry Jenner invited the girls to play a game at the park, as a part of the Fourth of July entertainment.

Baseball claimed its share of interest from the earliest times. W. S. Waite, now 81, was an ardent participant, and tells of playing with W. R. Mellor, who tried out with an Omaha club in 1892. Mr. Mellor, because of a sickly boyhood, spent hours throwing a ball at a hoop, and developed a curved ball which was his specialty. Town teams of "Fats" and "Leans" played exhibition games each summer in Loup City, when the block now occupied by the Presbyterian church was an easily accessible ball diamond. Spectators might perch on the roofs of the three "Pyke" houses, as they were called, west of the present site of the church.

Many rural community centers contested regularly. The baseball rivalry of Austin and Wiggle Creek led to great interest in the season's schedules. Loup City, Ashton, Litchfield, Rockville and many rural areas have maintained teams regularly. Mr. Fowler recalls the Prairie Dog team of Sherman County in 1900.

Tennis revives periodically, since R. H. Mathew first became interested while attending the University of Nebraska. A tennis tournament was held at Loup City in 1914. Mr. F. D. Archerd had been a state champion, and kept his opponents busy on courts west of the hospital, in the 30's.

Roller skating, wrestling, boxing, "miniature golf", softball, the sport in vogue has had its day, with baseball outstanding as a popular amusement.

2. Music and Entertainments

Music, or the lack of it, was a marked feature of pioneer days in Sherman County. George Benschoter, in his Book of Facts, mentions that he and his brothers helped carry the organ of Mrs. J. D. Gilbert from her residence to the Rosseter House, when the first religious services were held there in the fall of 1873. Mrs. T. N. Johnson, in southeast Sherman County, owned a melodeon. Mrs. Shields is said to have had the first piano in the county, a spinet piano.

Mouth harps, or harmonicas, popular with soldiers of the Civil War, were owned by many homesteaders. Violins were easy to carry, and were extremely popular for dance music.

Mrs. Alice Rosseter Willard paid this tribute to one early-day violinist:

"But in time there came one Dan Brumbaugh and his never-to-be forgotten "Rose Waltz." Dan may have come from out of the nowhere, but we know that his fine old violin equalled that loved "Rose Waltz." Then we danced often, and oh, so late."

Two violinists, one for the "air" and one for the "second" furnished music for dances. Jigs were popular; Guynelittle was "blackening up" for a jig when he disappeared from the dance he had promoted in Loup City, in Dec. 1879. Mr. Pence, violinist, was to have received \$10.00 for his music. T. R. Ingersoll furnished music for the dance which celebrated the opening of Odendahl's drug store in 1879.

"Bob" Hodges was "fiddler" at the Litchfield Fourth of July celebration in 1876. H. B. Lang writing to George Benschoter in October, 1915, mentioned that Bob knew only three tunes, "All Around the Monkey House, the Monkey Chased the Weasel" being his favorite. (Nebraska Record, Vol. I, No. 9, Oct. 1915) "Fisher's Hornpipe", "Soldiers Joy", "The Campbell's Are Coming", "Irish Washerwoman", "Buffalo Girls", "Arkansas Traveler", and "Turkey in the Straw" were popular numbers "Fiddlers" learned new tunes by listening to others.

The accordion was another instrument popular with pioneers. Louise Hansen (Mrs. J. Solms) and the Warminski's were performers on this instrument. Since the '30's it has again become popular. Miss Janet Amick (Mrs. Dick Charlton) played her fine instrument in a beautiful classical number when the Auditorium at the Fair Grounds was dedicated in 1939. She had told her friends that if they applauded, she'd play "Beer Barrel Polka". They applauded!

Banjos were also popular with early players. Herman Jung and his brother August were performers. Willis Waite played the selection "Siege of Sebastopol" on his guitar. Mrs. G. S. Leininger later gave instruction on both mandolin and guitar.

For patriotic parades, such as Decoration Day or Fourth of July, a fife and drum corps could be recruited. Judge Hunter with his fife, and George and Taylor Gibson with the bass and snare drums were always there. In 1889, a procession of forty teams was preceded to the cemetery by the band, playing dirges.

Musical instruments were few. The mother of Mrs. Park Paige, Mrs. Talbot, took instrumental lessons after she was married. Often she carried strawberries or vegetables from the garden to her music teacher. When Mrs. Parle commented about the roughness of Mrs. Talbot's hands, the taking of gifts ceased. Mrs. Ada Minshull Mason recalls how as a child she revelled in the playing and singing of a cultured easterner and temporary settler.

Mrs. Ernestine Odendahl, mother of C. J. and W. G. Odendahl, had received her musical education in Germany. Her grand piano, shipped from Boston, was used for musical instruction. Her brother, Julius Froelich, and her son W. G., played the flute. Her granddaughter, Ernestine Odendahl Carter, was her favorite pupil.

"Singing Games" such as "Skip to My Lou" brought music to youngsters. The late Alonzo Daddo had a great repertoire of them, never missing a word of the many verses.

Among the early day settlers were some of unusual musical ability.

Mrs. Miriam Carleton Squires, in her "Music of Pioneer Days", says of Custer County musical opportunities: (Nebr. Hist. Mag. Vol. 23, No. 4; Oct.-Dec. 1942, p. 271).

"The nearest place one could hear really good music in the '80's was Loup City, which had, for those days, an excellent orchestra and band."

W. R. Mellor, who with his musical wife came from Michigan City, Indiana, in 1884, was for many years the outstanding director of choir, cantata and operetta in Loup City. In Michigan City, he had succeeded the noted quartet arranger, J. A. Parks (afterward of York, Nebr.) as choir director. After locating in Lincoln, he was for a time assistant director of St. Paul's Oratorio Society. His bass solo and his wife's contralto, were always received with pleasure. He organized a male quartet in Loup City, with G. S. Leininger, L. N. Smith, and J. L. Barnes, which sang at political rallies.

School, church and Sunday School programs provided musical instruction. Programs were often given to raise money to purchase an organ. Mrs. A. B. Outhouse, who lived south of the Catholic Church, loaned her organ to the congregation until the I. M. Polski's moved to town.

When the Bacon Hose Team won the tournament at Ord, in Oct., 1888, they expressed their joy in these verses, sung to the tune of Stephen Foster's "Camptown Races":

"Bacon's team has had some fun,
Doodah, Doodah,
With Ord and St. Paul on the run,
Doodah, Doodah, Day.
(Chorus)
We just came off the train,
We all came home tonight,
Now what's the matter with Bacon's team,
You bet, they're all right."

(Fred Bacon was manager of the Chicago Lumber Yard, played the "bass." For more verses, see Benschoter's Nebraska Record, Vol. I, No. 12, Jan., 1916).

Home Talent plays with music furnished entertainment. A play, "Speculation", for the benefit of Loup City's poor was given by the Loup City Dramatic Association, Thursday evening, Dec. 22, 1887,

Mr. Hamilton, W. R. Mellor; Mr. Baily, Grant Young; Chas. Baily, E. E. Ditto; Andrews, Fred Werner; Speculation, Fred Bacon; Jeremiah, G. L. Barton; Kate Hamilton, Mrs. Werner; Mary, Mattie Raymond; Sarah, Lulu Raymond; Flora, Little Cecil.

also a farce, "The Irish Linen Peddler."

"Pat O'Doyle	George Gibson
Mr. Flanagan	G. L. Barton
Mr. Darling	J. R. Scott
Miss Darling	Helen Pyke
Mrs. Wade	Mrs. Mellor
Mollie	Mattie Roberts

Music by the Loup City Orchestra

Reserved Seats, 35 cents

General Admission, 25 cents

Children, 15 cents

Reserved Seats on sale at Mellor's General Store

On April 3, 1888, the modern drama, "Under the Laurels", was presented by the Loup City Dramatic Association, admission, 50 cents. The receipts, \$60.00, were to go toward a fire bell.

"Esther, the Beautiful Queen", "a Religious Opera", was given March 29, 30, 1888, with splendid costumes. A. H. Latham of St. Paul was director, Miss Lulu Raymond, pianist, and Fred Werner, orchestra leader. One of the three papers of the town commented that it was given with too little practice, but conceded that it was an ambitious effort and worthy of praise. Leading soloists were Mattie Raymond, Fred Bacon, Grant Young, Tilla Cornelius, Mr. and Mrs. Mellor, Chas. Gray and Bert Owen, with the little folks who took part greatly commended.

The opera "Contrabandista", directed by Earle E. Merrill, was produced Nov. 22, 1888, with C. L. Drake as Fernandez; Mrs. E. G. Kriechbaum as Rita Fernandez; Fred Bacon, Sancho; W. R. Mellor, Jose; E. P. Merrill, Beppo; Mrs. W. R. Mellor, Inez; R. R. Root, Griggs; C. A. Wheeler, Vasquez. Chorus ladies were the Misses Mattie Raymond, Mattie Roberts, Belle Jewett, and Mrs. A. B. Outhouse. Following the performance, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, managers of the St. Elmo, entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kriechbaum. Other musical stars residing in Loup City at the time were Mrs. Scruggs, Messrs. Phillips and Tucker.

The younger talent was not neglected. The performance of the three Jaeger sisters, Lillie, Lottie and Rosetta, as "Three Little Maids from School", and the duet, "Pitty-pat", sung by Nettie Conger and A. F. Werts, drew lavish praise, at a "Grand Concert and Social" in 1888. Price of the program was 10 cents; oysters were served after the concert. The Smith Opera House had a large stage, useful for an elaborate Christmas cantata given in 1895. Costumes such as those of angels with wings, made it memorable. The custom of placing gifts under the tree was carried out. Treats that year were giant red and white candy canes.

At a Christmas program given in 1889, Dr. Tucker drilled the children for six weeks so that they would be letter-perfect. Among the many school programs she assisted in producing, Mrs. W. S. Steen (Nettie Conger) rates as best "The Brownie Band", given at the Opera House for two nights, April 7, 8, 1911. Over sixty took part.

Another home talent show, produced in 1895, was the "Mastadon Minstrels". Performers were: Sambos, Frank Cline and A. F. Werts; Bones, E. A. Brown and Jack Rightenour; Chorus, Cash Conger, L. N. Smith, J. W. Long, W. S. Waite, W. R. Mellor, O. Benschoter, R. Pyke, J. S. Pedler, J. I. Depew, H. Wookey, Harry Garner.

A band existed early in Loup City. When the first U. P. train arrived in Loup City, May 31, 1886, it was met by the band, headed by photographer Chas. A. Wheeler. His wife related later how just before the train arrived, he rushed to her demanding his baton. She located the baton, and the Loup City cornet band played "My Country, 'tis of Thee".

After 1896, when good crops brought a degree of prosperity, musi-

cal instruments and musical training became common. When Miss Beth Zimmerman returned from college (Toledo, Iowa), in 1906, she organized a class in vocal music, which disclosed much hitherto unsuspected talent.

About this time, Loup City had a fortunate musical experience. Carl and Bert McKinnie, singers with the St. Louis Opera Company, satisfied an urge for farm life by settling on a farm west of Loup City. There Mr. Bert McKinnie brought his bride, Tekla Farm. She had sung with Madame Schumann Heink, was an accomplished pianist, and appeared often on programs in Loup City and nearby towns. Later, when they lived in Lincoln, Mrs. McKinnie sang the solo, "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth", from "The Messiah" at the State Penitentiary on Easter Sunday, 1910. So great was the power of her voice, that when she reached the climax, her audience involuntarily rose to their feet,—a degree effect unparalleled.

Further impetus to musical education was given when Mr. M. H. Warlock, and family, arrived in Loup City, March, 1913. A singer with a grand opera company which toured Europe, Mr. Warlock lost his fortune through others' dishonesty. He came to Loup City where his wife's brother, H. M. Mathew lived. Soon he was giving instruction in voice, also requiring the study of foreign languages. Later, he was on the faculty of Kearney State Teacher's College. Two of his most talented pupils were the Misses Florence and Mabel Depew. Miss Florence Depew was graduated from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago before going to South America as a Methodist missionary. Mrs. Mabel Depew Leschinsky was director of music at Giddings Presbyterian Church of St. Louis.

Chautauquas also encouraged musical education. The Redpath-Horner Chautauqua had its own school in Kansas City, attended by Miss Opal VerValin and Miss Harriet Gallaway.

When regular musical instruction was introduced into the public schools, music advanced greatly. Loup City schools had full time instruction under Mrs. Beth Zimmerman Owen in 1912. From that time on there was regular music instruction in the schools. When Mr. Fred Schneider took over the direction of band and orchestra, there was also a full-time vocal music instructor in the schools. Loup City high school orchestra ranked first in Class B at the State District Music contest in 1929. When the depression came, one music supervisor had charge of both vocal and instrumental music. The town band, which gives concerts regularly in the summer, is directed by the high school music instructor, and the high school band appears the year round.

Litchfield had unusual musical talent in 1896, when Frank Slote and Charley Matheson played eleven instruments. They gave programs in various places. Rockville's musical talent for a number of years was linked with the Frovin Rasmussens. The Band broadcast from Clay Center in 1924; there was a Rasmussen Orchestra; also a Pritschau-Eckels Orchestra; Ashton has a Maschka Orchestra. Litch-

field's present school band is directed by the school music instructor, Mrs. Lois Swanson Hanshew.

The Loup City Cornet Band was incorporated July 27, 1886, with E. F. Webster, pres; C. W. Gibson, secretary, and G. W. Gibson, treasurer. Members were Fred Bacon, Alonzo Boone, Ralph Richards, V. H. Huss, Chas. A. Wheeler, Harvey Brewer, W. H. Morris, W. T. Gibson, E. F. Walker, A. E. Nitch, and the officers named. Shares were valued at \$166.66. Instruments purchased at this time were used for many years. (Misc. Rec. I, 467).

J. I. Depew played the bass horn with every band in Loup City from 1880 until 1920. L. N. Smith, cornetist, also played with bands and orchestras from the time of his arrival, 1883.

Grand Island, and at times, St. Paul, had conservatories of music, an opportunity for Loup City musicians.

Directors of Loup City bands, after C. A. Wheeler, were: Charles Becker of Grand Island, L. N. Smith, R. N. Pritchard (1906-27); L. B. Polski, Clarence Wanek, A. B. Young, Chris Petersen, Lewis Brown. In recent years the high school band instructor is also leader of the town band.

"Literaries" at schoolhouses furnished entertainment for adults. Debating was popular; subjects were announced in advance, and discussion before and after the night was common. A debate held on the subject, "Resolved, That the earth is not a sphere", at the Hayes Creek schoolhouse in May, 1887, had George Kennedy and Mr. Mills on the affirmative, and Boone Hawthorne and David Kay, negative. In 1900, a literary held at the Divide schoolhouse had an attendance of over 100. When one recalls the scanty seating facilities, the heat from one stove, generally at the front or rear, and the faulty lighting, from a few kerosene lamps, carried from nearby farmhouses, the saying, "plain living but high thinking", becomes a reality.

Home talent entertainment, with plays and musicals, was popular. The Conger brothers put on an entire evening's performance in 1894. "Elocution", or public speaking was promoted by Demorest medal contests, attended by great public interest. Lizzie Denniston was winner in 1893.

"Blind Boone", the negro musician, came to Loup City in 1902. When he called for a local musician to play a number which he would repeat, Miss Ernestine Odendahl (Mrs. C. H. Carter) obliged.

Medicine shows in the winter, a tent show or circus in the summer, provided relaxation. Some really good troupes appeared; the Mattie Williams troupe of the late '90's was outstanding; in 1902 Sanford Dodge presented a series of Shakespearean dramas.

An entertainment organization in which Loup City and Sherman County took a proprietary interest was the one headed by Boyd Burrowes. Because his parents had lived in Loup City in the late 80's, where his brother Robert had died in 1893, and his two sisters Sarah Frances and Anna (Nan) taught school, he generally "opened" there. The winter troupe, with musical numbers and an orchestra, always proved that Boyd himself was a talented actor.

The summer tent shows, organized in the special car which stood on the side track for a week, were a curiosity to youngsters. When a fire destroyed the car on the track between Mason City and Ansley in the spring of 1911, Mr. Burrowes again returned to Loup City, where citizens ransacked attics to furnish costumes for the actors. While he received a settlement from the Burlington Railroad of \$1386.00 in the fall, the greatest encouragement had come from the sympathetic response of the citizens, who proved their appreciation of a "clean" show troupe.

Beginning in 1900, "lecture courses" provided winter education for adults. Managed by some local organization, the variety of entertainment, lectures, musical numbers, dramatic interpretation, carried the listener out of his every-day world. The Redpath Horner Company of Kansas City, Missouri, handled this type of entertainment well. Later, summer Chautauquas, under a tent, with a director to handle children's play activities, supplied the same type of entertainment. They flourished from 1908 to 1923 in Loup City. Litchfield was also a steady supporter of summer Chautauquas.

Stereoptican shows were the forerunners of the movies. The first movies were shown in Loup City in 1908, one night a week, the black-and-white movie, with musical background furnished by a local amateur at an (often) "tinny" piano. The present Times office, which had been converted by merchant T. L. Pilger into an opera house, after he had discontinued his mercantile business in 1901, offered such shows. When the present Liberty Theatre was built by Thomas Daddow in 1913, movies were shown there.

Public speaking attracted attention from time to time. Of the old-time orators, Judge Aaron Wall was out-standing. He became noted as a defense lawyer, whose pleadings swayed juries to tears. Judge Wall was often heard to say that if he could reach the accused before he made any confession, he could save him.

Miss Ella Long taught Delsarte (physical culture) along with public speaking. Mrs. H. M. Mathew, who had received her training in Michigan, especially enjoyed dramatic productions. The Demorest medal contests of 1890-92 and later W.C.T.U. oratorical contests promoted interest.

Mrs. W. F. Mason (Ada Minshull) for a number of years taught expression and promoted dramatic talent. So universal was her success with young people, that she was termed "Loup City's most useful citizen". (1938). Religious dramas, such as "The Rock", given in 1937, were notable. One of her pupils, Miss Eva Belle Spelts, did radio work for a time.

The Misses Dorothy and Louise Hilsabeck taught aesthetic dancing in the late twenties. One of their pupils, Miss Beth Beusheusen, continued this work at Colorado State Teachers' College and later taught in a girls' school in Maryland.

3. Organizations

Loup City Organizations

Shiloh Post No. 124, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at Loup City, Nov. 11, 1882, with these charter members:

M. A. Hartley, S. J. Fair, D. Fair, W. T. Leonard, P. Van-Horn, F. Gust, Wm. Young, W. H. Hawkins, W. H. Stephens, J. D. Hedglin, E. S. Baldwin, S. Hancock, W. Carruth, R. Taylor, W. A. Wilson, A. J. Wilson, J. M. Miley, J. P. Taylor, U. D. Rublee, A. M. Taylor, J. Winkleman, G. W. Hunter, E. Brewer, T. Johnson, J. L. Hawk, G. W. Kittell.

Later members were added, so that the record shows a total of 97 who belonged to Shiloh Post.

From the time of its organization until its ranks became too few the G.A.R., later assisted by the Ladies of Shiloh Circle No. 5, had charge of public exercises on Memorial or Decoration Day. These usually consisted of a parade to the Opera House, where a patriotic program with appropriate music, speeches, and the reading of Gen. John A. Logan's "Order of the Day", was given. Then the assembly went to Evergreen and other cemeteries, where the graves of departed soldiers were marked with a flag and flowers, and further ceremonies were held.

In early years, the flowers were often wild sweet peas which school children had gathered the previous day. The entire school might take part, with some prominent citizen, Judge Wall, J. S. Pedler, A. P. Culley, or R. P. Starr the orator.

The charter of this post was given to the Ladies of Shiloh Circle, and is now in the possession of Mrs. W. S. Steen. Mr. L. A. Williams, veteran sheriff of Sherman County and prominent G.A.R. member, promoted the organization of the Loup City American Legion, which with the V.F.W., now carries on the patriotic exercises of May 30.

Porter Lodge No. 106, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized Dec. 9, 1882, when the Grand Lodge granted a dispensation to ten Masons in Sherman County to form a lodge. The ten named were:

John Blackman, Richard Baker, Isaac N. Hanson, William H. Morris, Ezra P. Savage, Samuel H. Bowman, Jacob B. Payne, William A. Wilson, Marshall A. Hartley, Joseph S. Pedler.

While working under dispensation four members were added: Warren T. Chase, Charles J. Odendahl, Joseph F. Simpson, and Abram M. Taylor. These were included in the list of charter members when the charter was granted, June 19, 1883.

First officers, installed Sept. 15, 1883, were: James M. Blackman, W.M.; Wm. H. Morris, Senior Warden; Marshall A. Hartley, Junior Warden; Joseph S. Pedler, Treasurer; C. J. Odendahl, Secretary; W. T. Chase, Senior Deacon.

Within a year membership increased, some joining on demit from other lodges, and others on petition. Among these were John C. Edmonson, James Gouley, G. E. and Theodore Wilson, C. W. Conhiser, A. M. Bennett, Wm. Rowe, Chas. Riedel, and Horatio Smelser.

First meeting place of the lodge was in the Porter Block, on the west side of the square. In 1912 it moved to its present quarters on

the second floor of the brick building north of the First National Bank. (L. L. Stephens, Times, June 28, 1951).

Because of the membership of her brother, Miss Ella R. Long spent her last years at the Masonic Home at Plattsmouth.

Present officers are: A. R. Owens, W. M.; Floyd Dunker, Senior Warden; John W. Parks, Junior Warden; S. E. Smalley, Treasurer; F. J. Leschinsky, Treasurer. (Times, Dec. 13, 1951).

Ancient Order of United Workman, No. 33, was organized at Loup City May 17, 1884, with J. Phil Jaeger the promoter. Charter members

J. P. Jacques, A. M. Bennett, W. H. Lalk, James Landers, W. H. Morris, M. H. Mead, W. R. Mellor, C. W. Conhiser, M. P. Ford, M. S. German, G. H. Gibson, W. T. Gibson, J. C. Edmonson, James Gouley, G. W. Hunter, M. A. Hartley, C. J. Odendahl, F. J. Saltus, Wm. Simpson, Aaron Wall, W. A. Wilson, T. D. Wilson, G. E. Wilson, S. G. Wookey, O. B. Willard, Peter Truelssen, John Wall.

This organization, a fraternal benefit society, converted to a mutual life insurance company under the name Pathfinder Life Insurance Company, in 1928. When the Pathfinder became insolvent, it was taken over by the Nebraska State Insurance Department, and subsequently reinsured in the Postal Life and Casualty Insurance Company.

Loup City Camp No. 636, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized June 22, 1888. Its insurance feature made it a strong group. Mrs. Wm. French has a picture of the lodge in regalia, showing thirty members. In 1951 it had 37 adult members, two junior members. Sixty-nine death claims have been paid, and fourteen cash claims, a total of \$115,822.05. The local camp at Ashton was consolidated with the Loup City group in 1942. The camp at Litchfield closed in 1948. (Courtesy of H. L. Ruff, National Secretary, April 3, 1951).

Excelsior Lodge No. 166, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted at Loup City March 27, 1889, by E. M. Frame, district deputy grand master. Charter members were C. R. Stedman, A. P. Culley, L. A. Williams, M. S. Adams, C. L. Butterfield, F. N. Hall, J. S. Pedler, M. H. Carleton, W. G. Odendahl, T. S. Nightingale, C. L. Drake, and F. H. Dray.

First officers were: M. H. Carleton, Noble Grand; A. P. Culley, Vice Grand; C. R. Stedman, Recording Secretary; and Wm. G. Odendahl, Treasurer. Their installation and initiation of ten new members marked the first meeting of the lodge, with the St. Paul lodge attending in a body to assist in instituting the new lodge. Meetings were first held in the Masonic Hall in the Porter Block, in 1893 moved to Watkinson's Hall, and in 1909 the lodge bought the upper floor of the building west of the First National Bank. Best-known member throughout the state was J. W. Conger, elected Department Treasurer with the rank of Major in 1911. He held this office fourteen years. In 1922, he received the Grand Decoration, received by only one in every three hundred members. His three-year old daughter pinned the decoration on her father. In 1925, 1926, and 1927 Mr. Conger served as Department Commander of the State of Nebraska, with the rank of General. (O. H. Lilley, Times, June 28, 1948; Mrs. J. W. Conger).

The Odd Fellows laid the cornerstone of the Sherman County Court House and the Wiggle Creek School.

Officers (Dec. 1951) were: John Merritt, N.G.; Carl Anderson, Jr., Vice-G; Nelson Caddy, Secretary; Lee Miller, Treasurer; Warren Anthony, Warden.

John A. Logan Camp No. 82, Division of Nebraska, Sons of Veterans of the United States of America. Date of muster, Nov. 9, 1889, Loup City, Nebr. Commander-in-Chief approving charter, Chas. T. Griffin. Colonel issuing charter, A. M. Appleget.

S. S. Wox, C. M. Snyder, R. E. Hunting, H. A. Woody, Will Odendahl, Wellington Hawk, S. F. Reynolds, W. T. Gibson, C. W. Gibson, G. W. Gibson, W. M. Hutson, James Wilson, F. E. Brewer, James Lee. Mustering officer, W. H. Conger; Captain, S. S. Wox.

Records of the fathers in the Civil War, with age and occupation of the members, are included in the large page of which the organization is recorded. Membership based on Civil War record of fathers. (Information furnished by I. S. Leith, 1911 "L" Street, Lincoln, who has the records at his home.)

Loup City Camp EOC Ord Camp, No. 82, May 13, 1892

Chas. E. Barley, Thos. Johnson, William Hawk, Milo Gilbert, George Gibson, Taylor Gibson, H. Edmonson, J. Winkleman, Robley Pyke, A. Bechthold, M. Hutson, W. Odendahl, Irvin Conger, S. S. Wox, J. Lee, Harvey Criss, E. G. Boyer.

Camp E.O.C. Ord No. 82, approved June 9, 1909.

James McBeth, mustering officer, April 12, 1909. C. M. Snyder, F. G. Snyder, F. E. Brewer, J. B. Ford, Harry G. Taylor, G. H. Gibson, Wm. Criss, W. T. Gibson, C. W. Fletcher, W. Hawk, W. S. Waite, J. H. Lee, A. L. Zimmerman, D. S. Draper, E. G. Taylor, James W. Conger, S. N. Criss, W. Hancock, W. P. Taylor, W. I. McDonald, B. P. McKinnie, C. E. Mellor, H. J. Cole, Marvin H. Lee, C. T. McKinnie.

Woman's Christian Temperance Union has existed in Loup City from time to time. In 1890 Mrs. O. E. Briggs was active in the organization in Loup City.

Litchfield had an organization in 1921. In the '30's interest was stimulated by oratorical contests for young people. Litchfield, Rockville, Austin, Wiggle Creek and Loup City had entrants. Richard Dinsdale and Alice White were winning speakers from Loup City. Mrs. L. M. Harwood, wife of the Presbyterian pastor who served the Loup City and Austin Presbyterian Churches from 1929-41, was active in W.C.T.U. work in the '30's.

A Germania Society was organized in Loup City in 1892. Officers were: Henry Ohlsen, president; John Jens, vice-president; Jacob Albers, secretary; John Ohlsen, financial secretary; E. Schwer, treasurer; John Oltman, property manager.

Beautifully staged dances were managed by this group for a number of years. Torchlight parades sometimes observed special occasions. It lapsed with the removal or death of members. Ashton's similar group, with which the Loup Cityites often joined in celebrations, promoted old settler's reunions, Fourth of July picnics, with outstanding entertainment.

Maitland Castle No. 102, Royal Highlanders, was organized at Loup City, in May, 1899. Charter members were: J. E. McCray, T. M. Reed, Otto Petersen, Alonzo Sutton, Jesse McPherson, A. S. Main, H. Gardner, Emil Beusheusen, Ashley Conger.

Marmion Lodge No. 111, Knights of Pythias, existed in Loup City for a number of years. J. W. Long was Grand Chancellor of the State in 1911-12.

The Loup City Council of Loyal Mystic Legion of America was organized in August, 1902, with 120 members. This was a beneficiary organization.

An example of lodge affiliation and other connections was cited by the Northwestern, Febr. 22, 1902. George W. Hunter was coroner, justice of the peace, treasurer of the A.O.U.W., secretary of the Loyal Mystic Legion, organizer of the Modern Woodman of America, member of the Degree of Honor, and of the (county) Soldiers Relief Committee.

Joppa Chapter No. 52, Knights Templars, was organized by the St. Paul chapter, Jan. 5, 1890.

Sherman Canton No. 14, Patriarchs Militant, was organized in Loup City in 1908. Charter members were:

Rev. W. C. Harper, R. D. Hendrickson, A. B. Outhouse, Peter T. Rowe, Clark Reynolds, Milo Gilbert, H. J. Johansen, Fritz Johansen, J. W. Conger, O. F. Peterson, R. H. Mathew, R. P. Reed, Martinus Biemond, L. A. Williams, J. H. Lee, Knut Jensen, Luke Gardiner, S. A. Pratt, T. M. Reed, Chris Johansen, A. C. Ogle. (Times, Jan. 19, 1911).

There was a National Guards organization in Loup City in 1904. F. S. Robbins was chairman; G. H. Gibson, secretary; Arthur Inks, captain; Simpson Criss, first lieutenant; A. T. Conger, second lieutenant.

A Polish Society of White Eagles was organized in Loup City in 1914. Officers were: J. Stanczyk, president; M. Ignowski, vice-president; H. Gzehoviak, secretary; Wm. Lewandowski, treasurer; F. Dzingle, marshall. A state picnic was held at Loup City in 1925.

American Legion Burrowes Post No. 48 had these charter members in 1919:

James Gilbert, Ed Anderson, R. F. Rowe, Dwight Willis, Charles May, Geo. Wickstrom, Arthur Rowe, Jack McCarville, R. Jenner, Chris Larsen, Charles Olson, Roy Chapman, Earl Hancock, Ernest Baumann.

Twenty-two more members were added in October of that year. L. A. Williams, Civil War veteran, promoted the organization.

Burrowes Post No. 48 is named for John Burrowes, 318th Field Signal Battalion of Co. C, who was born in Loup City, Nebr., Nov. 15, 1893, and died of influenza at LeTreport Hospital, France, Oct. 17, 1918. His remains were interred in Evergreen Cemetery in July, 1920, having been accompanied from New York City by a boyhood friend, R. F. Rowe.

The Post has fitted the basement of the R. L. Arthur building, on the west side of the courthouse square, for a club room and meeting

place for it and the Legion Auxiliary. The kitchen is well-equipped in order to serve banquets.

Woman's Unity Club of Loup City, was organized in December, 1891, at the suggestion of Miss Ella Long. Her inspiration came from an article concerning the Sorosis Club of New York. In response to an article in local newspapers, thirty-five women met on Saturday afternoon at the primary school building. Mrs. Theodore Pilger was elected president; Mrs. J. W. Jones, secretary. Departments organized were: Women's Work and Home; Music and Art; Temperance and Woman's Suffrage; Society and Entertainment. At first officers changed every three months, and meetings were held throughout the year. A New Year's Eve banquet became the outstanding social feature, when husbands were guests.

The club was federated from 1895-99; refederated in 1904. It became a limited membership club, due to the difficulty of securing a meeting place. Until 1900, while "struggling against poor crops, storms, and a general decline in hope," the study of government, literature and art continued. By 1907 they had raised \$600.00 for a drinking fountain, installed at the southwest corner of the square. (Later it was moved to the street north of the Keystone Lumber Company, since the city had other plans.) Sponsoring lecture courses was one means of securing funds. They paid off the debt against Evergreen Cemetery. In conjunction with other groups, they helped raise \$1,000.00 toward the Carnegie Library. The Unity Club furnished the west room of the library at a cost of \$184.00.

Officers of the 60-year old club for 1951-52 are: Mrs. W. S. Steen, president; Mrs. Dan McDonald, vice-president; Mrs. F. A. Grow, corresponding secretary; Mrs. A. Anderstrom, recording secretary; Mrs. C. A. Briggs, treasurer. Mrs. C. J. Tracy, on the honorary roll, is the only living charter member.

Shiloh Circle No. 5, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, was chartered May 2, 1892, with these members:

Mrs. Clara Hawk, Mrs. Clementine Conger, Mrs. Naomi S. Criss, Mrs. Mary Rentfrow, Mrs. Jennie Owens, Mrs. E. J. Johnson, Mrs. S. K. Tracy, Mrs. E. Stelmacher, Mrs. Sarah Moon, Mrs. Mary J. Whitmore, Mrs. Ella Briggs, Mrs. Wm. Carfuth, Mrs. Thos. Inks.

Membership changed with the years, being restricted to lineal descendants of the Grand Army of Civil War Veterans, 1861-1865. Aided by members of Shiloh Post No. 124, members of the Circle kept alive the observance of Decoration Day. Those who as children had taken part in exercises in later years became speakers, as when the Rev. R. V. Kearns, son of a pioneer physician, gave the chief address in 1931.

By 1947 membership had decreased to five: Mrs. Nettie Steen, Mrs. Jessie McFadden, Mrs. Ashley Conger, Mrs. A. B. Outhouse, and Miss Emma Prather. Mrs. Steen still maintains connection with the state organization. Two charter members, Mrs. C. J. Tracy and Mrs. Ella B. Briggs, are still living, but became inactive due to family duties.

In early years the serving of a "supper" on election night was an activity of the group. (Mrs. Nettie Steen, Jan. 12, 1949).

One soldier from Loup City, killed in battle in France in World War I, Edward Sharp, at the wish of his mother was buried in Arlington National Cemetery at Washington, D. C. His father, living alone at Loup City, had a slab placed in the family burial plot in Evergreen Cemetery, "so he could take flowers to Ed".

Bill White Post No. 727, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was organized May 27, 1946. First officers were: Dr. Eldred Arch, Commander; Paul Reiche, Quartermaster. Charter members were:

Dr. Eldred Arch, A. A. Badura, Richard J. Badura, Stanley J. Bukowski, Elon L. Guilford, Laurence Jones, Milton E. Carty, Frank J. Czapslewski, Asa J. Farnham, Jr., Raymond H. Heins, Steven F. Makowski, John N. Matheson, Eric Olson, Harold S. Olson, Alonzo Paige, Paul Reiche, Arthur Rowe, Edmond Slominski, Sylvester J. Slominski, Conrad Smedra, Raymond E. Smedra, Harry E. Stobbe, Al C. Tesmer, Wesley W. Thornton, Alfonzo Tozek, Robert B. Wherry.

Present officers are: Alonzo Paige, Commander; Melvin Lonwoski, Vice Commander; Carl Spelts, Quartermaster; Robert Jablonski, Adjutant. (Courtesy of Alonzo Paige, Dec. 1951).

Meeting place of the Bill White Post is in the club rooms at the fair grounds. The VFW have for some time leased the auditorium at the Fair Grounds, where they manage public dances.

This post is named in honor of Lieut. William M. White, pilot of Marauders, who was reported missing in action June 14, 1944. He had enlisted in December, 1942, and received training as an aviation cadet in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. He was survived by his wife, Frances, and his mother, Mrs. Margaret McNeill White. (Courtesy of Mrs. W. S. Steen).

Oriental Chapter No. 78, Order of Eastern Star, was organized at Loup City, Febr. 24, 1893. The first Worthy Matron was Mrs. Viola Odendahl; the first Worthy Patron, J. S. Pedler. Oldest members of the lodge, in point of membership are Mrs. Ernestine Carter, initiated in 1901; and Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Beusheusen, initiated in 1906.

Oriental Chapter No. 78 has furnished these Grand Officers:

J. S. Pedler, Worthy Grand Patron, 1906

Mrs. Ernestine Carter, appointed Grand Organist in 1903

Mrs. Mary Arthur, Grand Esther in....

Mrs. Mary Farnham, Worthy Grand Matron, 1933

Mrs. Jane Outhouse, Worthy Grand Matron, 1946

Mrs. Nettie Steen was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Jurisdiction of British Columbia, near the Grand Chapter of Nebraska, in 1946.

Present officers are: Mrs. C. Mohr, Worthy Matron; Mrs. Donald Youngquest, Associate Matron; Harlan Blincow, Associate Patron; Miss Margaret Legg, Treasurer; Mrs. R. L. Fertig, Conductress; Mrs. Kenneth Cook, Associate Conductress; Mrs. Mary Petersen, Retiring Worthy Matron. (Mrs. C. Ryan, Times, June 12, 1948; Times, Dec. 13, 1951).

Friendship Lodge No. 19, Degree of Honor, was organized in December, 1897. This beneficiary organization declined because of in-

crease in rates. Mrs. W. O. Brown is the oldest living charter member.

Royal Neighborhood Camp No. 827 was organized at Loup City, Jan. 18, 1898. Charter members were:

Elsie Depew, J. I. Depew, Elizabeth Ditto, J. N. Fisher, Minnie Fisher, Katie J. Gilbert, Minnie Gilbert, Dollie Hopper, John Hopper, Lydia Johansen, Mary Lofholm, Laura Marlow, Joseph McCoy, Francisca Otlewski, Frank Otlewski, Hattie L. Reed, Louis Strankman, Mary Strankman, Annette Wilson, C. S. Wilson, H. A. Wilson, Rachel Wilson, W. W. Wilson.

This organization, with its fraternal insurance plan, has these officers: Mrs. Minnie Fisher, Oracle; Mrs. Bertha Fiebig, Recorder; Mrs. Leona Rowe, Chancellor; Mrs. Hannah French, Manager. (Mrs. Bertha Fiebig, Recorder; Miss Margaret Walker, Supreme Recorder, Rock Island, Ill.)

Morning Star Rebekah Lodge of Loup City was organized in 1904. Charter members were:

R. D. Hendrickson, Martinus Biemond, Peter Hoogenboezem, Anna Hoogenboezem, Roxanna Carpenter, Chris Johansen, Carrie Johansen, Edna Williams, Joseph Reiman, Mary Reiman, Henry Young, Belle Mulick, G. H. Gibson, Lovina Gibson, Lizzie Rowe, Hattie I. Reed, Harriet Houck, Mrs. Lou Holcomb, Ida Carpenter, Louis Winkleman, Wesley McCombs, Lovie E. Cooke, T. M. Reed, Peter Rowe, Aga Ogle, W. O. Brown, Carrie Brown, C. F. Voyles, Lola Riedel, Charley True, J. W. Carpenter, Fritz Johansen, Vena Johansen, Fred Kornrumpf, Edith Kornrumpf, Fred Winkleman, Eugenia Hale, Margaret Ogle, Hans Johansen, Nina Nicoson, J. S. Pedler, Mary Pedler, J. S. Pedler, Mary Hedges, Sarah Hedges, Harley Hedges, Jonas Hedges, L. A. Williams, O. O. Howard, Eleanor Bradley, Minnie Jung, Knud Jensen, J. H. Parshall, S. E. Carpenter, Clarence Zink, W. D. French, Hannah French, E. A. Draper, Ellsworth Ogle, Katie Burrowes, Anna Cramer, Hiram Cramer, August Moll, Ida Moll.

Mrs. J. W. Conger was Assembly President of the Nebraska Assembly in 1929, after serving as Warden in 1927, and Vice President in 1928. She became a trustee of the I.O.O.F. home in York in 1924 serving 14 years. She and her husband J. W. attended over 40 state meetings together, traveling over 14,000 miles

The largest membership was 115; present membership is 83. Present officers, (December, 1951) are Mrs. Lillian Miller, Noble Grand; Miss Dorothy Cusimano, Vice-Grand; Mrs. Jane Thode, Secretary; Mrs. Irene Philp, Treasurer. (Courtesy Mrs. Jane Thode.)

Chapter AQ, PEO, was organized Jan. 9, 1906, at the home of Mrs. C. C. Outhouse. Aside from the projects of the national organization, Cottey College at Nevada, Mo., the student loan fund, and the P.E.O. Home at Beatrice, the chapter has been active in community projects.

AQ gave \$145.00 for the purchase of furniture for the children's department of the Carnegie Library; landscaped the drive and center beds of Evergreen Cemetery, and aided in the installation of a water system; purchased a \$35.00 sousaphone and a \$75.00 case for the high school orchestra; presented electric clocks to the Loup City Township Library and the Loup City High School.

A guest day in honor of the older mothers of the town is held each spring. Donations are regularly made to state charitable institutions. Present officers are: Mrs. Milo E. Daily, president; Mrs. A. J. Riedesel, vice-president; Mrs. James Farnham, recording secretary; Mrs. Norman Stephens, corresponding secretary; Mrs. F. J. Leschinsky, treasurer; Mrs. A. Erdman, chaplain; Mrs. Florence Jansen, guard.

Pythian Sisterhood Hermione No. 35, was organized in February, 1911, under the leadership of Mrs. Viola Odendahl, with Mrs. Frances B. Outhouse, Mrs. J. P. Leininger, Harriet Hayhirst, Mrs. Druzilla Pedler, Mrs. Lydia Johansen, Ernestine Odendahl, Mrs. Edith Smith, and Mrs. Libbie Lorenz charter members.

Due to changes in residence this organization has lapsed.

A Delphian Society was organized in Loup City in August, 1920. This study club was well-organized, a worthy successor to the Chautauqua Course which a number of husbands and wives maintained in 1889-90.

First officers were: Mrs. R. F. Campbell, president; Mrs. E. B. Jones, vice-president; Mrs. A. H. Stimpfig, treasurer. Members were:

Mesdames A. A. Beatty, C. L. Bowman, A. L. Brown, J. O. Cox, R. F. Campbell, H. M. Elsner, A. J. Farnham, S. Galloway, E. B. Jones, Ora Larson, T. R. Lay, J. P. Leininger, G. Lorentz, W. F. Mason, E. J. Maus, C. C. Outhouse, L. B. Polski, A. H. Stimpfig, R. E. Summers, H. R. H. Williams.

Delphian Auxiliary: Eloise Beatty, Harriet Galloway, Dorothy Hilsabeck, Ruby Larsen, Rhea Minshull, Marcia VerValin. (Times, Jan. 18, 1939; information assembled by Miss Ella Long on a number of organizations).

Dramatic Club of Loup City resulted from the production of a play, sponsored by the Woman's Unity Club, for the raising of funds for the library. Mrs. H. M. Mathew was the dramatic coach.

First officers were: Evangeline Waite, president; Helen Amick (Mrs. J. C.), vice president; Geraldine Waite, recording secretary; Ann Van, corresponding secretary.

First project of the club was a Community Christmas Tree, for which over \$200.00 was secured by a "tag" day. With this money, over 1,650 sacks were filled with 50 pounds of candy and 125 pounds of peanuts. Other community projects have included day nursery at the fair grounds; purchase of mower for cemetery; landscaping library grounds; regular donation of \$15.00 to the library each year. On Oct. 1927, the club set out a living Christmas tree on the courthouse grounds, gift of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Waite.

The Community tree at the intersection is regularly placed and decorated. To secure funds, the club maintains a "rummage sale" each Friday afternoon. It is housed in their own building, located south of the Loup City Clinic.

Camp Fire and Girl Scout organizations have existed since 1918. Leaders and guardians at various times have been: Mrs. R. H. Mathew, Laveda Anderson, Luree Hawk, Mrs. E. C. Staley. Mrs. Ruth Henning and Mrs. Alan Ihms are present sponsors. The Loup City Woman's Club has been active in support of these organizations.

A Girl's Rifle Squad was organized in Loup City in 1917, as a result of World War I.

Rockville and Litchfield have also had Camp Fire and Girl Scout organizations.

P.T.A. (Parent-Teachers) Associations have existed in Hazard, Litchfield and Ashton, at various times. The organizations are still active in Ashton and Litchfield.

The Boy Scout movement in Loup City had an auspicious beginning under the leadership of John W. Long, "Dad" Long, in 1915. A. J. Johnson was an assistant, as was the Rev. L. V. Slocumb, who gave instruction in military tactics. Outfits were purchased by Mr. Long. A picture of the troop identifies these boys as members:

Mark Johansen, Wm. Anderson, Russell Grow, Earl Shrove, Parke Robbins, Raymond Outhouse, Floyd Lee, Milo Daily, Carl Rettenmeyer, Charles Marcy, Jim Knight, John Leininger, John Long, Raymond Slocumb, Clinton Conger, Hal Chase, Harold Rowe, Floyd Bass, Lloyd Grow, Theo. Gasteyer, Martin Hile, Paul McLaughlin, Cornell Brown, Rex Currier, Harry Conger, Martin Hile, Loren Pugsley, Otto Hansen, Childs Galloway.

In 1922 four troops of eight members each existed. In 1930 Burrowes Post of the American Legion sponsored Scouting. A partial list of leaders includes: William Hansen, E. W. Moehnert, Paul Mathew, Leo Bolin, "Mike" Polski, R. H. Cortner, Karl Pecht, Ed Guilford, Stanly Roy, Raymond Wharton, Wesley Thornton, the Rev. L. G. Marx. Burrowes Post furnishes sponsors at present.

Mrs. Fred Sherman had a Cub Pack in the late 30's. Mrs. P. J. Kowalski and Mrs. Stanly Roy have active Scout Mothers. The Volunteer Fire Department and St. Josephat's parish are two organizations which have sponsored troops. (Cornhusker Council, Boy Scouts of America, April 9, 1951).

St. Ann's Study Club of St. Josephat's Parish was organized at the home of Mrs. Gladys Thompson, Oct. 3, 1934, with Mrs. Thompson, secretary of the Ashton District of the D.W.C.C acting chairman. Officers elected were: Mrs. Laura Staley, president; Mrs. Joseph Dilla, vice-president; Mrs. Margaret Pritchard, secretary. With these officers were charter members: Mesdames Paul Keating, Mike Galzenski, T. Gzehoviak John Jezewski, Ed Janulewicz, and J. J. Synak.

St. Mary's Study Club, known as the Polish Unit, grew out of St. Ann's Study Club. Chairmen have been: Josephine Janulewicz, Wanda Synak, Margaret Pritchard.

Other Catholic Churches of Sherman County have similar organizations.

Loup City Woman's Club was organized in 1925, as an open membership club. First officers were: Dr. C. L. Bowman, president; Mrs. C. E. Wanek, vice-president; Mrs. Fred Schneider, recording secretary; Mrs. C. S. Hager, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Athelbert Chase, treasurer; Mrs. C. F. Ryan, Mrs. A. J. Farnham, Mrs. W. H. Line, directors.

Civic projects promoted by the club have been: \$350.00 to land-

scape the high school grounds; they also had the grounds adjacent to the Smith-Hughes building landscaped; sponsoring essay contests; (their candidate Mary McCoy won first place in the district in 1934); ice-skating pond, 1937; health clinics; promotion of park project. (Times, June 28, 1939)

Present officers are: Mrs. John Hawk, president; Mrs. Minor Steele, vice-president; Mrs. Norman Stephens, secretary, Mrs. Cecil Travis, treasurer.

The Loup City Commercial Club was organized in December, 1905, with J. W. Long, president; and E. A. Brown, secretary. W. R. Mellor, R. J. Nightingale, and W. F. Mason were appointed to draw up a constitution. This civic organization, which has functioned continuously, was active in promoting good roads, and in 1951, financed a special election to vote on bonds for the purchase of the Jenner's Park site. A. E. Chase and Dr. J. W. Bowman were two who did much to make Highway 92 a reality.

Present officers are: Ray Pinckney, president; Ann Van, vice-president; Mrs. Maurice Youngquest, treasurer; Harlan Blincow, Dr. Murray Crouse, Floyd Raymond, board of directors. (Times, Jan. 5, 1952).

The Rotary Club of Loup City was organized in 1926, when one representative from each business were elected to membership. The Club was active until 1951, featuring the luncheon or dinner "get-togethers" and serving as a contact with community projects. Its charter was surrendered in December, 1951, due to the fact that because of deaths or removals from the city, only fourteen active members remained.

Loup City Lions Club received its charter from the Lions' District Governor C. J. Verges, Nov. 26, 1951. Officers are: Richard Badura, president; Ted Steinkamp, first vice-pres.; Joe Simanek, second vice-pres.; Dr. Burdette Miller, third vice-president; Wm. J. Haynes, secretary-treas.; Harry Knecht, Lion Tamer; Mike Kronkright, Tail Twister. Directors are Leland Horner, Robert Jablonski, O. S. Mason, Jr., Robert Petersen.

Other charter members are: Bernard Anderson, Eugene Billesbach, Paul Chipps, Dr. Murray Crouse, Edwin N. Ellis, Earl Hancock, Joseph F. Havelka, Frank Janda, Edmund Kowalkewski, Carl Krolkowski, Melvin Lonowski, Harold Maciejewski, Rolland H. Morgan, Walter Orent, Sal Slominski, Pete Wilson.

Elm Grange No. 356 was organized Nov. 1, 1928 with Elmer Dahlstrom as master. Meetings were held in the "Shetler" schoolhouse, Dist. No. 25, with membership within a five mile radius of this school. Attendance is often over fifty, since children come with parents. Membership is 28 in 1952. At the meetings, study of the legislative branch of government concerning agriculture, national welfare, transportation, and taxation forms the programs, with entertainment features added. (Courtesy of Mrs. Clyde Kuhn). (Referred to also as the Clear Creek Grange.)

A meeting of the State Grange was held in Loup City Oct. 10-12,

1933, with some national officers present. (L. N. Smith was a delegate to the National Farmer's association in 1907.) A Farmer's Union Picnic was held in September, 1927, twelve miles west and seven miles north of Loup City. Elm Grange No. 1427 was in charge.

Wiggle Creek Grange No. 358 was in existence in 1938.

Litchfield's Perryville Post No. 231, Grand Army of the Republic, applied for a charter, signed by twenty veterans of the Civil War, on Oct. 1, 1886, which was issued January 21, 1887, signed by J. M. Thayer, Department Commander, and J. W. Liveringhouse, Assistant Adjutant General. Charter members were:

S. P. Dillon	James Murray
Geo. Van	O. D. Eaton
J. E. Murray	James F. Wisherd
E. W. Gowin	L. D. Engleman
J. Littlefield	Frederick Yocum
A. Dickerson	Jas. Slote
William Duck	George Roush
J. B. Flint	James Drake
J. D. Engleman	Albert Bush
M. L. Hislop	

The last report to the Department Headquarters was dated June 15, 1906. It carried the names of A. H. Gray, L. D. Engleman, J. D. Engleman, Albert Dickerson, M. Gowin, L. Ormsbee, G. Greenhalgh, George Van. The largest membership reported was in 1883. L. D. Engleman and Enoch W. Gowin were the last members to "muster out", dying in January, 1940. (Brigadier General Guy L. Henninger, Adjutant General's Department, State of Nebraska, Jan. 27, 1940).

Perryville Camp No. 80, Division of Nebraskan Sons of Veterans of the United States of America, had their charter approved August 10, 1889, by G. S. Abbott, Commander-in-Chief, and A. Applegat, Colonel. Members listed were:

W. A. Marmaduke, Ed W. Marmaduke, J. W. Johnson, L. A. Engleman, Frank Slote, Erskine Gowin, Edwin Hislop, Joseph Van, David Eaton, Warren Littlefield, Lewis Littlefield, Clarence Littlefield, Ernest G. Rouse, W. L. Butler, John H. Sill, Sherman Warner, W. E. Claypool. Mustering officer, James T. Burdick; Captain, J. W. Johnson.

Litchfield had these organizations, about which no information has been furnished, in 1906:

Rokeby Lodge No. 141, Knights of Pythias; T. W. Tate, clerk;
Geo. E. Porter, V.C.
Home Forum Lodge.
Daughters of Veterans.
Ladies of G.A.R
Pleasant Valley Grange.

1897: W.C.T.U.: President, Mrs. Mamie Murphy; secretary, Miss Gertrude Eaton; correspondent secretary, Mrs. J. B. Burt.

1898: Home Forum Lodge: Dr. J. D. Palmer, president; D. O. Eaton, secretary; other officers: James Johnson, Mrs. J. A. Kirk, Len Root, Thomas Bryant, Reese Johnson, Matt Engleman, Ralph Goff, George Sweeley.

1910: Litchfield Woman's Relief Corps: President, Sarah

Powell; other officers, Betsey Ormsbee, Helen Farnsworth, Eliza Gowin, Lucy Gray, Ellen Lewis, Ellen Engleman, Lenora Miller, Sarah Greenhalgh.

The Order of Maccabees organized a "tent" in Litchfield, Dec. 24, 1910, with "Dad" Cone of Mason City, adviser, and State Commander L. M. Thomas, installing officer. Members were: W. H. Rightenour, W. H. Lewis, S. T. Richmond, O. E. Sheeley, R. H. Powell, C. A. Rydberg, C. R. Heapy, E. A. Brewster, Fred Douglas, Geo. Weller, Guy Sweeley, Charles Lang, J. M. Knapp. (*Monitor*, Jan. 8, 1911).

Litchfield Rebekah Lodge elected these officers for 1952:

Mrs. Roy Stephens, Noble Grand; Mrs. Irwin Beck, Vice Grand; Mrs. Vene Bacus, Secretary; Mrs. J. R. Lang, Treasurer. (*Sherman County Times*, Jan. 3, 1952).

Aster Chapter, O. E. S., Litchfield, Nebraska, was organized Nov. 6, 1914; the charter was received May 12, 1915. Charter members were:

Mrs. Inez Burt, Mrs. Lulu Burtner, Miss Martha Burtner, Mrs. Blanche Cording, Mrs. Ida Gibson, Mrs. Eliza Gowin, Mrs. Ethel Heapy, Mrs. Minnie Kuhn, Mrs. Mae Myers, Mrs. Anna McKenzie, Mrs. Effa Richmond, Mrs. Ellen Rightenour, Mrs. Dora Rydberg, Mrs. Fannie Slote, Edward A. Slote, Orren Slote, Miss Florence Stewart, Mrs. Hattie Stewart; with Mrs. Blanche Cording the first Worthy Matron.

The present membership numbers 59, with six charter members still active. Present officers are: Mrs. A. F. Bates, Worthy Matron; A. F. Bates, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Ethel Grice, Associate Patron; Mrs. Claudia Sayers, Conductress; Mrs. M. H. Burtner, Secretary; Mrs. H. I. Lang, Treasurer. (H. I. Lang and Dr. C. A. Rydberg, Dec. 1950; *Times*, Dec. 13, 1951).

The Litchfield Knights of Pythias Hall Association was incorporated May 31, 190, capitalization \$1000.00. C. E. Achenbach, C. W. Gibson, F. W. Tate, George E. Porter, Harry C. Goff, and H. R. Palmer were named stockholders. (*Misc. Rec. II*, p. 587).

The Up-to-Date Club of Litchfield, a woman's federated club, was organized in December, 1917. It was federated March, 1918. An outstanding achievement of this club was the placing of a cement sidewalk around the Litchfield Park. (*Monitor*,).

Litchfield American Legion Post No. 293 was organized Febr. 28, 1946, with 27 charter members. First officers were: Keith Curry, Commander; Martin Engleman, Vice-Commander; Gene Brewer, Adjutant; Bill Powell, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Present officers are: Verne Eastabrook, Commander; Allen Slocum, Vice-Commander; Robert Robinson, Adjutant; Robert Harding, Marshall; George Shaffer, Warrant Officer.

A bronze tablet honoring Carl Farnsworth, who paid the supreme sacrifice in World War I, was hung in the Litchfield Presbyterian Church in 1922.

Litchfield American Legion Auxiliary, No. 293, was organized June 6, 1946, with fifteen charter members. First officers were: Mrs. Stewart Brewer, President; Mrs. S. E. Plantz, Secretary; Mrs. J. Powell, Treasurer.

Present officers are: Mrs. Vernon Easterbrook, President; Mrs. Robert Robinson, Secretary; Mrs. George Shultz, Treasurer).

(Information from secretaries, May, 1951).

Litchfield Lodge No. 190, I.O.O.F., was organized Febr. 25, 1892. Charter members were: H. B. Palmer, Chris Smith, P. W. Wirt, Madison Knapp, A. D. Norling, A. W. Throckmorton, F. W. Starks, John Mathewson, W. C. Coleman, W. D. Robinson, T. C. Chamberlain, Lawrence Bausch.

Litchfield Commercial Club was organized March 6, 1922.

Litchfield Masonic Lodge No. 276, A. F. & A. M. formed a temporary organization in the winter of 1907. Officers chosen were: C. A. Rydberg, W. M.; C. W. Johnson, S. W.; G. W. Wolfe, Jr., W; R. P. Moore, Sr., D; F. A. Gale, Secretary; J. W. Alkire, Treasurer. Charter members were:

Harry Alkire, Wm. J. Alkire, J. W. Alkire, Sylvester Brewer, John B. Burt, Geo. A. Curry, Albert Dickerson, John F. Dickerson, Chris Eberle, LeRoy Engelman, Fred L. Gale, Chas. W. Gibson, Geo. W. Hager, Wm. J. Heapy, James R. Lang, Geo. McKenzie, Roscoe P. Moore, Wm. H. Rightenour, Chas. A. Rydberg, Edward A. Slote, Wm. F. Spencer, Lewis H. Thomas, Charles J. Whitmore, George W. Wolfe.

Robert H. French, Grand Custodian, gave instructions for regular meetings with the instructor J. T. Tooley, of Anselmo; a hall was rented from J. T. Campbell for three years. The dispensation was granted Dec. 19, 1910; the charter was received June 6, 1911. (Courtesy of C. A. Rydberg and H. I. Lang, Dec. 1950).

Boy Scout and Camp Fire organizations have existed in Litchfield since 1919, and flourished from time to time.

The Band Mothers of Litchfield organized in 1949, and in one year raised \$1900.00 to pay for band uniforms for the Litchfield High School Band, directed by Mrs. Lois Hanshew. Mrs. Ralph Slocum was the first president. Mrs. Albin Schroll was elected president in 1951. (Times, Dec. 13, 1951).

There have been P.T.A. organizations in the vicinity of Litchfield and at Hazard from time to time. Ashton at present has an active P.T.A. (Parent Teachers Association).

Rockville Lodge No. 265, I.O.O.F. came into existence June 16, 1906, when the charter of the Boelus lodge was removed to Rockville. Boelus Lodge No. 265 had been organized June 18, 1902, with Wm. Stoeger, L. B. Kenyon, Geo. W. Woten, C. B. Handy, Wm. Ericksen, Edward Ericksen, A. F. Rerzback, Albert Treon, John Stoeger, Jr., and E. Dwehus members. The fact that these two towns are only seven miles apart, with the membership (in time), largely in Rockville, was reason for the change. This lodge is still active.

The Rebekah Lodge of Rockville elected these officers for 1952: Esther Carsten, Noble Grand; Orlie Gray, Vice-Grand; Lola Bushousen, Secretary; Metha Booth, Treasurer. (Times, Jan. 13, 1951).

The Rockville Woman's Club was organized and federated in March, 1923, after Mrs. H. M. Mathew and Mrs. D. A. Beach of the Woman's Unity Club of Loup City met with a group of Rockville women at the

home of Mrs. Marie Dewhus. Six of the charter members were active in 1939: Mrs. Christine Sorensen, Nina Rasmussen, Lola Bushousen, Mrs. Laura Carstens, and Mrs. Evelyn Bartunek. (Times, June 28, 1939). Some of the worth-while projects of the club have been:

Purchasing equipment for the school grounds; planting a Black Hills spruce in observance of the Washington Bi-Centennial, 1932; sponsoring health clinics; first aid classes; equipping a Red Cross sick room cabinet for loan; sponsoring a federated Junior Woman's Club in 1936, Mrs. Elvin Petersen, president; Mrs. Dorothy Nielsen, sponsor.

Present officers are: Mrs. Victor Sorensen, president; Mrs. Lola Bushousen, vice-president; Mrs. Evelyn Bartunek, secretary-treasurer.

Rockville also has a Royal Neighbor's Lodge.

Ashton had a Modern Woodman of America organization in 1892. It was united with the Loup City Camp in 1942.

Ashton's American Legion was organized in 1946. Temporary officers were: Norbert Kalkowski, Commander; Ralph Badura, Vice-Commander; F. A. Badura Adjutant; Rudolph Peters, Finance Officer; Frank Rewolinski, Sergeant-at-Arms; Thos. Gappa, Chaplain. Mr. Kalkowski served as Post Commander from 1946-1950.

Present officers are: Commander, Alfred E. Maiefski; Adjutant, Donovan E. Luedke; Treasurer, Steve Jaratowski.

Red Cross in Sherman County

(Taken from Atlas, including World War I history, of Sherman County, published by C. F. Beusheusen and and F. B. Hartman, 1920).

The Red Cross Chapter of Sherman County was organized in June 1917, after inquiry by the Woman's Unity Club, and other interested citizens, and a visit of Attorney E. P. Ryan of Grand Island. Officers were: J. W. Long, Chairman; Miss Mable Hansen, vice-chairman; C. C. Carlsen, secretary; L. Hansen, treasurer. Mrs. R. F. Campbell later succeeded Miss Hansen as vice-chairman. Co-chairmen of the executive committees were Judge Aaron Wall and J. S. Pedler. Branch chairmen were: Jos. Jankowski, Ashton; Chris Nielsen, Rockville; Geo. Slote, Litchfield; John Roberts, Hazard. The largest membership recorded was April 1, 1917, 2,671; 1918, 2,600, not including membership of children in the Junior Red Cross Societies. Total amount of money raised in Sherman County for Red Cross purposes was \$37,575.00. Mrs. C. C. Outhouse, chairman of sewing, reported materials used: 1,221 yds.-operating gowns; 837 yds.-hospital garments; 499 yds, toweling; 1,675 yds., sheeting; 1,180 yds.-pillow case muslin; 2,950 yds., gauze.

Mrs. A. M. Bennett, chairman of the knitting committee, reported:

Sweaters, 1,777; socks, 1,308 prs.; wristlets, 416; mufflers, 214; helmets, 50. In connection with knitting, the record of Mrs. Chris Christensen (mother of Mrs. Nora Casteel and Mrs. J. P. Leininger, Jr.), in March, 1919, had completed 60 prs. of socks, 36 sweaters, 6 pr. wristlets; 1 muffler, and attended meetings every week. (Times, March, 1919).

The reports of Mrs. R. L. Arthur, Home Service Chairman, and Mrs. R. F. Campbell, surgical supplies, were also outstanding. War Savings Societies, Liberty Loan Drives, Y.M.C.A. and United War

work, Christmas Cheer, Food Administration, Labor Committee, County Council of Defense, War Gardens—all activities to further the war effort were unselfishly managed and supported in Sherman County.

Following World War I, Sherman County had the services of Mrs. C. H. England, Executive Secretary of Broken Bow, Custer County, who visited Loup City June 4, and Litchfield June 3, 1921, in regard to service men's benefits. Due to the amount in the local Red Cross treasury, Miss Ethel Batie was employed as county public health nurse, beginning work Nov. 4, 1921, and serving until 1923. (Times, Nov. 5, 1921; Sup. Rec.)

Mrs. W. H. Line headed the Loup City Chapter, 1931-34.

Red Cross was active in Sherman County during World War II.

Present officers of the Loup City chapter are: Miss Mina Schumann, president, and Miss Lucille Schatka, secretary-treasurer.

4. Parks

The park developed by William Knutzen, in Ashton, was perhaps the first amusement enterprise of the county. Mr. Knutzen, born in a German-possessed province, off the coast of Denmark, and his Swiss wife, Eufrania Blumer, came to Sherman County in 1889. His daughter, Mrs. Julius Bushousen, wrote of the park in 1948: (Times, July 1, 1948).

Knutzen's Park, Ashton

"When he started working on the park in 1892, there was a small creek, with weeds, underbrush, and some trees, near the house (west end of Ashton). He cleared the creek banks, and built a dam to make a lake. Around the lake he laid out walks, flower beds and a lily pool. For the lake, he built two or three small boats, quite an amusement for the young people. There was also a baseball diamond, a bowling alley, and a dance hall furnished with a piano.

There was a refreshment stand serving ice-cold drinks and home-made ice cream. Its facilities, with the pavilion, made it an ideal place for wedding receptions and dances. Here occurred the wedding reception and dance of William Knutzen, Jr., and Miss Clara Grabowski, in 1909.

Last but not least, was the merry-go-round, built with eight handmade horses, and four coaches or boxes carrying four persons each. This was operated by a faithful horse, "Old Belle," and later by a small engine, to the accompaniment of a music box. This merry-go-round was taken to Dannebrog each year, when the Danish Independence Day, June 5, was celebrated. It was at the Sherman County Fair in 1894, and often in Grand Island. To pack, transport by team and wagon, assemble, then tear down and re-pack the merry-go-round took a week.

Knutzen's Park was a beauty spot, the pride of William Knutzen's heart for twenty years. (The park site is now gone).

Fairview Park was given Litchfield in May, 1897, by James and Sarah Campbell. The federated Woman's Club of Litchfield placed a walk around it in 1919. Its location near Litchfield makes it especially desirable.

Jenner's Park contributed more than any other institution to a knowledge of Loup City and Sherman County from 1900 to 1940. When Mr. Henry Jenner purchased a home in eastern Loup City, he found himself in possession of a natural amphitheatre along Dead Horse Creek. Its situation reminded Mr. Jenner and his brother Robert of the parks of their native England, and in 1898 they began improving it, chiefly for the benefit of Mr. H. Jenner's children, Constance, Hal and Robert. Gradually its scope increased; because the creek overflowed its banks, in 1915, they constructed a dam, which had the effect of changing banks, they constructed a dam in 1915, which had the effect of changing the course of the stream.

Animal pens properly labelled housed native and imported animals and birds, monkeys, and snakes; various collections, from guns to inlaid chests, from rare newspapers to musical instruments, were housed in a hall. Indian remains led to the construction of a mummy house, built in Egyptain style, with papyrus plants at each side of the door. The main hall was also used for a dance floor.

The grounds, beautiful with trees and flowers, walks and lawn, swings, a unique "Ocean Wave", bowling galleries, shooting galleries, were a paradise for entertainment. Jenner's not only designed but built these improvements. Park Opening Day, generally in June, was a gala occasion. South of the park, extending to the highway, was a ball diamond, used for many years. During the years when Sherman County had no County Fair, a Harvest Festival at Jenner's Park took its place. Alert to the value of historical relics, Jenner's acquired a considerable number, ranging from the bell used at Ft. Hartsuff (Ord) to M. H. Smith's reaper, manufactured in 1850, brought from Vermont. Dr. E. H. Barbour of the University of Nebraska, after viewing the museum collection, asserted that it was worth \$500.00 a year to each school child of the community. There were even buffalo there for a time, goats (because there had been goats in England), and local specimens furnished by interested friends.

By 1934, the park was so well-known that as many as 3000 visited on a single day. Unfortunately, none of Mr. Jenner's children were interested in continuing the work. After the death of his brother Robert, in 1942, Mr. Henry Jenner was obliged to dispose of the animals and discontinue operations. His collections were despoiled, despite being under lock and key. By 1950 most of the items had been sold privately. An attempt to have the city take it over as an amusement and recreation park failed in a special election held in November 1951.

There are two State Parks in Sherman County, the Recreation Grounds at Litchfield and at Loup City.

The Loup City Recreation Grounds are located west of town, south of the west river bridge, consisting of 50 acres with a river frontage of 1500 feet. Governor A. J. Weaver viewed the site, on invitation of the Loup City Rotary Club, in March, 1930, and fifty acres were purchased from John Haessler in May, 1931. A lake was dredged on a part of the site of the old mill race, and for a time boating was possible. The lake is regularly stocked with fish by the state commission. Because of the distance from town, benches and tables have

been damaged from time to time, but the roads with tree plantings, bath house, outdoor fireplaces, have made it a popular site for family picnics, and group meetings.

The Litchfield Recreation Grounds consisting of 20 acres of land, lie four miles southwest of Litchfield. (D.R. 43, 324). It has a well, fireplaces, benches and tables for picnic grounds.

Ashton's Roosevelt Park, northeast of town, is used as a ball park. Rockville's Roosevelt Park, adjacent to the one-time site of the Union Pacific station (moved to Grand Island in 1947), is a Memorial to the Soldiers of World War II)

Ashton has excellent tennis courts, surfaced, fenced and lighted, which were secured as a result of the efforts of Superintendent of Schools Jack Cady. (Times, Febr. 2, '52).

CHAPTER V

NATIONALITIES AND PLACE NAMES

1. Nationalities in Sherman County

When C. H. E. Heath, English-born county attorney, secured bondsmen in 1887, the local editor commented that the bondsmen represented many nationalities: O. W. Brown, American; A. L. Baillie, Scotsman; Peter Glinsman, German; Adam Adamski, Polish; Louis Pierson, Swede. Yet the editor had not completed the list, for there were Bohemians, Danes, Norwegians, Swiss, Canadians, Holland Dutch, and others. (Times, June 2, 1887) in Sherman County.

Among the early German settlers were a number of Civil War veterans, who were born in the "old country", and served throughout the war with a regiment in which all commands were given in German. H. Fiebig, Kuehnz, and Thode's were some of them. The German settlement at Wilhelmshohe, in 1879, attracted other Germans. Their number was so great that Theo. L. Pilger, a German merchant from Muscatine, Iowa, often had his ads printed in both German and English. The Transcript at one time proposed printing one page in each of these languages: English, German, Polish, Swede. (Times, Jan. 20, 1887)

The advertising of the State of Nebraska, and more especially that of the B & M Railroad, in Poland and in Polish newspapers in the United States, led to a large influx of that nationality after the tax case of the B & M was settled in 1879. One Dr. John Telafus of Tiflis, Russia, was entering Sherman County land in 1879. He "temporarily" resided in Lincoln, and was represented by John Barzynski, according to deed records (D.R. I, 370). A lease, the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 1-15-15, between Stanislaus Badura and Frank Krolikowski, (Nov. 21, 1888), referred to the location as "Polander", since many Polish had settled in the Oak Creek area. (Misc. Rec. I, 334). Polish settled in

large numbers in Platte County, many of them later coming to Sherman County.

John Barzynski was located at St. Paul as early as 1880. His announcement in the St. Paul Press, Sept. 10, 1880, was

Freight and Passenger Agency and Foreign Exchange Representing the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Co., and the Great Northern Steamship Co. Money collected from all parts of Europe. Superior arrangements have been made for the carrying of Passengers to and from Germany and all the principal points of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, avoiding the dangers and unpleasant voyage over the North Sea.

North-German Lloyd Steamship Company.
B&M Railroad Company.

Mr. Barzynski, as his name indicated, was Polish; his ad does not mention Poland, because that unhappy country had been partitioned among Germany, Austria, and Russia.

When the Polish came to this country, they were lured with ads in their own language. Mr. I. M. Polski, in a letter written in May, 1939, stated that John Barzynski published ads in a Polish paper in Chicago. While advertising railroad land Mr. Barzynski mentioned that government land was available. A 60 per cent discount was offered on railroad land, selling for \$21.00 per acre, and a 25 percent discount on freight to actual settlers.

Mr. Barzynski lived in St. Paul, probably because the B&M had a great deal of land in central Nebraska. The Press on Sept. 23, 1878, mentioned "Hon. John Barzynski and lady" attending the marriage in Sherman County of Mr. Frank Duda and Miss Pauline Kalowski.

Herman Sperling, a German who worked in the steel mills of Pittsburg, Penn., was told by a Polish fellow-workman of the cheap land in Nebraska, which resulted in his settling near Jericho post office, among Polish settlers.

Swedish people migrated in greater numbers after the Civil War. The cheap lands of Sherman County attracted some from Swedish settlements in eastern Nebraska. The Lofholms and Carl Andersons, came from Oakland, Nebr. Balsora, in northeast Sherman County, was a Swedish settlement, where the church aided in keeping the language alive. Carlson, Pierson, Erickson, Sandh, Anderson, Holmberg, Lindahl, Anderstrom, Ohlund, are Swedish names in Sherman County. Mr. Lofholm always spelled his name "Loeffholm".

A Norwegian settlement, in southwest Sherman County, near Hazard kept alive that country's language and traditions. Both their church, and that of the Swedish people at Loup City, observed the sunrise Easter, or daybreak Christmas services. Reinertson, Nelson, Spangburg, Olson, Larson, Everson, Johnson, Berg and Swanson were Norwegian families.

Danes entered Sherman County from Howard County on the east where two towns, Boelus and Dannebrog, were predominantly Danish. Rockville was the trading point for Danes of Sherman County. Rasmussen, Ericksen, Christensen, Larsen, Sorensen were Danish settlers.

The "English crowd", prominent in the first two decades of the county's existence, were attracted to Sherman County in part by the activities of C. H. E. Heath, who represented the American Colonization Company. Its mission was to bring young Englishmen to the middle west to be instructed in ranching and farming. The arrangement was that the young men paid three hundred fifty dollars to the company, and provided their own transportation. Upon arrival the local farmer was given one hundred dollars, for which he was to provide a room with certain conveniences, mostly non-existent in the new country. He also had the benefit of the applicant's labor.

Prominent among the English in Sherman County were Henry and Robert Jenner, H. M. Mathew, Gerald and Arthur Pigou, Bert Lederidge, "Freddie" Dawson, Jackie Cowper, "Lord" Workman, Tommy Dean, Tommy Wiskin, Jackie Twizel, "Byelo" Bratt, Charles Mallory (from Connecticut, of the Mallory Hat Company), Will Oliver and brother, Joseph Wharton and a Mr. Smallwood. The four Milburn brothers, Monte, Percy, Ernest and Cecil, lived near Arcadia, as did the Berridge brothers, who imported English draft horses in the '80's. The Nightingale brothers, T. S. and R. J. were English. A number of settlers from eastern states, but of English ancestry, were of the English crowd, Stedmans, Smiths, Walls and Simpsons.

Mr. Henry Jenner, the last one of this group, described his reception on arrival.

"I came by rail to St. Paul, where I was obliged to hire a rig to bring me on to Loup City. My luggage, a metal trunk, a wooden box with books, a portmanteau, and a gladstone, were too much for the stage. When I packed I had selected scientific books to bring to America, but my mother, who regretted that after studying for the ministry (at King's College, London, and the university) for four years, I had refused to take orders, had substituted many religious books.

Parle Pounds was my driver. He asked whether I had seen a prairie fire. When I answered no, he stopped and started one. When Mr. Alec Baillie, to whose farm I was assigned, met me in Loup City, his coat was burned. He had laid it down when fighting a prairie fire, with some damage. He had a rope tied around it, and gunny-sacks tied around his feet. He may have dressed up to impress me.

When we reached his place, he told me I could sleep on a cot in a corner of the kitchen. Some one was lying on the cot, with curly hair sticking out. I thought it was strange, but went to bed. Next morning I learned that it was Milo Mizner, who needed a haircut.

The house had two rooms, was built of cottonwood logs cut nearby. I chopped wood, hauled cottonwood logs from the timber, cultivated corn, and took care of sheep. I afterwards (after his year at Baillie's was "up") stayed eight months at Charles Snyder's and two months with Alex Gray's. When my brother Robert came he stayed at Robinson's and bought land. I proved up on my homestead, while my brother had a tree claim close to the river.

One Sunday I spent with Walls, the next Sunday with Mathews. The American Colonization Society (London firm, Rathbone and Company), had lists of farms all over America. (Apr. 10, 1948).

The story is told of one Englishman in nearby Custer County who had written home that he had a house of "Nebraska brick". When the fond mother sent word she was coming to visit, the son hastily erected a frame addition to his sod house.

The Welsh were represented by the Daddow family, and Goldsworthys. Although they were of English origin, the Daddows had lived in Wales. When they came to Sherman County, all the children spoke Welsh.

The English were responsible for the introduction of much fine, blooded stock into the county. The Times, Oct. 8, 1887, noted:

The Berridge Brothers of Lee's Park (above Arcadia) have their splendid English draft horses, a beautiful quartette, on exhibition, and the giant beauties are the center of attraction on the course Thursday afternoon. The peer of the group seems to be the iron grey, General Logan, an equine our deceased patriotic statesman would be proud to know as his namesake, were he acquainted with the proud specimen of horseflesh.

The Berridges shipped broncos to England, to be used as polo ponies, and brought back Normans and Clydesdales. Sailing from New York, April 14, 1887, on the steamer Elissa, destination Liverpool, they returned in September, "with some of the finest blooded horses money can procure".

Racing was popular. At the Sherman County fair in October, 1887,

"Brown Idol" won the running race. Joker, owned by the Reed Brothers of Arcadia, took the hurdle, and the Milburn pony captured the pony race. Tests of speed were exciting and quite a number of side bets were registered.

Another Englishman, Arthur Pigou, called "the sprightly young English farmer on the Divide", planted three thousand trees this spring (1887), besides putting in the usual amount of small grain. Arthur is a hustler." (Times, Apr. 14, 1887).

Their courtesy, detachment, and observance of the amenities of life, made the English outstanding in the pioneer life of Sherman County.

The Scotch were represented by the Baillie family, who came from Scotland to Canada, from there to Minnesota, then to Nebraska. William Baillie, Sr., and his children, Alec, William Jr., Mary, Jessie, Ellen and Wilson, had the Scotch brogue. David Kay was born in Scotland. Others from Canada were Maxwell, Shields, Minshull, Chamberlain, Heapy, Curry, Pedler and George Chapman. Mrs. Ada Minshull Mason absorbed stories of England from her grandmother until she might have been born there. The Times (April 4, 1889) referred to a Canadian settlement east of Loup City.

As for the Irish, "Mike" Mulick and "Joe" O'Bryan at Loup City, represented the "ould sod". Their jovial dispositions, jokes, and stories brightened the day for their companions. McDonald's were of Irish descent. Taffes and Clancys of Litchfield were Irish. Mrs. Taffe received a shamrock from her native Ireland in 1911. (Monitor, May 24, '11)

Mr. Yost Blumer of Ashton was the outstanding representative of the Swiss.

The Hollanders were represented by Cordings and Biemonds, Baumas, Hoogenboezems and DeLysters. A Mr. Ivan Schyck returned with the Biemond's when they made one of their visits to Holland. They brought a fine set of sleigh bells with them. Mr. Reuben French was married in 1879 to a Mrs. Yolube A. Dashash of Holland. When Mrs. Lydia French Johansen, a sister-in-law was questioned about it in later years, she commented, "Oh, yes, she was one of those Hollanders", but could recall the names of no others. Vandergrifts, Vanscoys, VanHorns have names indicating Dutch origin.

The Carl de la Mottes of west Sherman County must have been of French origin, although they spoke German. The wife of Henry Leininger was born in Alsace Lorraine. When she came to Sherman County, she brought with her a large copper kettle, brought from France. It had been carried on the head, filled with clothing, when an ancestor walked from the eastern coast of the United States to Ohio. (This kettle is now in the possession of John Leininger).

Bohemians came into Sherman County from Buffalo County, where there was a large settlement. V. L. Vodicka was a land agent for the B&M railroad. He and Frank Fiala had come to Ravenna (from Bohemia to Iowa City, Ia., to Omaha) in 1878. They hired a team to inspect land, then went to the Grand Island land office to make their filings. Learning that there was plenty of unsettled land, they returned to Omaha, where they conferred with Edward Rosewater (later editor of the Omaha Bee), and Rosicky, Fiala's step-father. Joseph Horak, his brother-in-law Vaclav Novy, and Fiala all filed on Sherman County land, a mile north of the boundary line between Sherman and Buffalo Counties. (Rosicky, A History of the Czechs in Nebraska, Czech Society of Omaha, 1929, pp. 230-234).

In 1879, Paul Horak, Paul Miller, John Helibrandt, Josphe Berzina, and B. Bugno became settlers; in 1880, Frank Vaclav, Cenek, and Kuticka's. Ravenna, Rockville, and Pleasanton were trading points.

The cemetery on the land of Horak's in Bristol Township, is known as the Bohemian cemetery (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 28-13-15). In 1920 these names of Czech origin appeared on the Sherman County map:

Horak, Celmer, Hosek, Vacha, Jelinek, Krs, Macek, Kunes, Huryta, Novy, Holub, Kozel, Ocenasek, Bugno, Hajek, Helibrandt, Fiala, Kuticka, Psota, Erazim.

Chinese who followed railroad construction gangs were engaged in the laundry business. Ah Tom in September, 1888, followed B&M track layers to Arcadia. Chong Lee, in 1889, was in Loup City a few months.

One Japanese, Harry Nabna, worked at the A. J. Johnson farm during the year 1912. In that time, he saved \$1,000.00. While he came to learn American agricultural practices, he studied the English language diligently. His prized dictionary was even carried to the dinner table. (Times, Mar. 21, 1913)

Three Japanese families occupied farms in the Litchfield vicinity in 1918. Both H. Kano and his wife, Ai Ivy, were American citizens, he a graduate of the University of Nebraska. In 1921 Hisanori Kano appeared before the Nebraska legislature to plead against excluding

Japanese from land ownership. His talk was impressive, because of his love of agriculture. (Monitor, Febr. 28, 1918; Febr. 24, 1921).

One family occupied the upper story of the house in which Kano and his wife lived. It was understood that they were servants of the Kano's. Kano secured title to the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of 6-14-15 on March 20, 1920 and relinquished it June 3, 1929. At sales of farm implements he always seemed to have money with which to buy. (M.R. 53, 156; 67, 442).

There is at present a Mexican couple living south of Loup City.

Syrian merchants, Ed and John Farrah, were in Ashton in 1915, completing naturalization proceedings while there.

While both the St. Elmo and Frederick Hotels occasionally employed negro cooks, members of that race seldom remained long. In the early days, Charley Evans lived in a little shanty on the south side of the courthouse square. As boot black, banjo "picker", jig dancer, he was helpful in many ways. When his shining parlor became a rendezvous of lawless characters, Charley was obliged to make a "get-away". His story was that when men who had become drunk at Ashton made too much noise in his shop, the marshall threatened him with arrest. Charley took off at night, without any heavy clothes, crossed the west river bridge, and dark as it was, walked to Mason City, where he boarded a freight. At Ravenna he asked Mr. Benschoter to give the key of the building to the owner and to send him his clothes. His destination was Omaha, but he later appeared at Greeley. (There was a settlement of negroes near Westerville.) (Benschoter, Nebraska Record, Febr. 1916). A negro tailor at one time owned a "suititorium" in Loup City, but did not stay.

The language barrier sometimes called for the services of an interpreter. Mr. Jacob Albers often acted for Germans; Rudolph Johns, who spoke three languages, for the Polish. Mr. Wm. Lewandowski and I. M. Polski also acted as interpreters. Following World War I, use of foreign languages in churches almost disappeared.

State origin in early years meant almost as much as the country of foreign birth. "Where are you from? Indiana? Oh, a Hoosier", was a typical conversation. The Hoosiers held a picnic at Lang's Grove in May, 1900. The early yearly county census carefully noted the State of birth, as did the marriage licenses.

Among the Pennsylvanians prominent in Sherman County history were E. S. Hayhurst, of Williamsport, and the Gibsons, T. W., George and their cousin Charles, of Bedford, Pennsylvania.

E. S. Hayhurst had undermined his health while working in timber stands in Indiana. The west was recommended as a healthy place. In February, 1880, he formed a partnership to engage in hardware and mercantile business with J. Woods Smith. Lacking railroads, it was customary to add 20 per cent to the price of the goods, for freighting. In 1881, Mr. Hayhurst brought his wife and infant daughter Harriet (Mrs. A. J. Johnson), from Pennsylvania. They first lived in the house now occupied by Miss Berdie Lofholm. Mr. Hayhurst made good his guarantee as stockholder when the Sherman

County Banking Company failed in 1888, but started over, prospering in the business. When he built the store building now occupied by Jack and Jill, it was one of the largest in central Nebraska.

The Gibson brothers, "Taylor" and "George", entered homesteads near Litchfield, but soon came to Loup City. Taylor Gibson built county bridges for many years. His brother George had a varied career, carpentry, furniture and undertaking, on the Northwestern, and finally editor of the Standard Gauge. Charles Gibson, a cousin, lived in Litchfield most of his life.

Another Pennsylvanian, J. W. Burrowes, employed by the Rust-Owens Lumber Company, suggested the name "Keystone" for the lumber company begun at Loup City in 1887. "Keystone" it has remained, under the management of A. B. Outhouse, and today, his son A. R.

Polish Wedding

One of the most colorful events in Sherman County, often too little appreciated by outsiders, was the Polish wedding in native tradition. While it is impossible to include all details, these will help to portray the occasion.

The match was often arranged by the parents of the young couple without the knowledge of the participants, part of an old-world custom. The banns were announced in the local Catholic Church for three Sundays preceding the ceremony, but the invitations were given verbally.

Four young men, with ribbon rosettes in their coat lapels, knocked at the door of a home. Upon entering, they at once recited a verse in Polish, which translates thus:

"We are inviting you to the wedding,
We have much to eat and drink.
For ducks and geese will be killed,
And we'll make merry till evening.

But the guests usually stayed most of the night!

Amid laughter and thanks, the four proceeded to another home, and continued until all had been invited. These four young men were in general charge of the proceedings of the wedding day.

Meanwhile, in the home of the bride, there was much planning and cooking, for the large crowd of guests would be feasted royally. The bride's father and the young men in charge attended to the preparation of a dance hall. Some times it was in a hay-mow, but often, weather permitting, on a specially built platform, shaded by tree branches or the canvas from a threshing machine.

On the morning of the wedding, the bridal party gathered at the home of the bride. Before leaving the house, the bride knelt to be blessed and sprinkled with holy water by her mother, who said:

"I bless you, daughter of mine,
You are leaving over my threshold."

Then all set out for the church, often a long cold ride, for the Catholic churches were scattered, and in the early years, were not heated. At the head of the procession came the four young men, on horseback. They wore rosettes, sashes across their vests, with their horses' bri-

dles also bedecked. From time to time these young men might fire pistols. Next came a wagon with the musicians, whose violins and basses would furnish the dance music. The band from the Paplin Church (Howard County) had twelve pieces, and rode in a wagon.

Next came the carriage with the bride and best man, then one with the groom and bridesmaids, then the parents of the couple, followed by the guests. The bride did not always wear white. Mrs. T. A. Gzehoviak, Veronica Lorchick, in 1907 wore a dress of pale lavender with two bridesmaids in pink and two in blue. The bride's veil was held by a circlet of paper flowers, and she carried a bouquet also of paper flowers, because of the difficulty of securing cut flowers.

Often there were more than four bridesmaids. Mrs. Frank Lorchick recalls a wedding at Columbus, where there were twenty-two bridesmaids. "They kept coming in, and coming in, and it seemed they'd never stop" explains Mrs. Lorchick.

At the church, the priest had perhaps baptized and confirmed the couple. As soon as the ceremonies were over, the bridal party drove directly to the photographer's. Guests leaving the church might find the exit barred by the altar boys holding a rope across the doorway. This was lowered upon payment of a small coin.

When the guests reached the bride's home, one of the young men attendants came out, accompanied by several musicians. Liquid refreshments were served. Older women served the newly-wedded couple with bread and salt. This was a token that these necessities would not be lacking. The wedding party was served at a special table, and serving continued until all had eaten.

Then began the dancing. The musicians took their places with the four young men in charge of affairs, and of liquid refreshments. First the bride and bridegroom danced alone. Then the bridesmaids chose partners from the unmarried men, losing partners when the music suddenly stopped. They chose other partners, girls danced with each other and with the bride, until all the young folks were on the dance floor.

Meanwhile, the men, to have the privilege of dancing with the bride, broke a plate with a coin. One of the attendants removed the broken plate, and sometimes, to make it more difficult, placed a napkin on the plate. It usually required a silver dollar to break the plate, although some became expert with smaller coins. When a man broke a plate a second time in order to dance with the bride, he said: "I gave, and I'll give again." The money went to the bride.

Late in the day, older women seated the bridegroom, the bride on his lap, and removed her veil and wreath. On her head they placed a "choipina", a little cap, and around her waist they tied a white apron, signifying that she was now assuming the duties of a matron. The apron was supposed to be used as a receptacle for the "plate-money", but since silver dollars were heavy, a box was substituted. Before this ceremony, Mrs. Gzehoviak had changed to a dress of pale green, considered by many of the guests more beautiful than the wedding dress.

The dancing which followed the removal of the bride's cap was in itself a beautiful ceremony. First the parents of the couple danced. The couples interchanged, and the song, as they circled the bride and groom, told of the interlacing of family ties through the wedding of the couple. Next relatives of each of the pair danced, with more singing to the same effect.

When it was finished, even though I hadn't understood the words (I had been told what they meant), I felt that a beautiful interpretation of family relationship had been given. It was sad; some of the older people had tears in their eyes; but it was beautiful. The songs had mentioned the duties upon which the bride was entering; there would be sorrow as well as joy; but it was an enduring relationship. (Interview, March 15, 1952, Mrs. Grace Z. Rossa).

Now the bride danced with the older men, who were expert at plate-breaking. The dances, quadrilles, polkas, schottisches, and waltzes, created a beautiful scene. It continued until day-break, when farewells were said, and the wedding celebration came to an end. The fine shoes worn by the men were often worn through with dancing on the (usually) rough floor.

Words of the song sung by the women, when they removed the bride's cap, as Mrs. Frank Lorchick recalls them,

"Wreath of beauty, don't fall off my head
Because my mother braided it, and placed it
on my head."

When William Knutzen, Jr. and Miss Clara Grabowski were married, an early German and an early Polish family were united. Clara Grabowski's father, Michael Grabowski, and her mother, Elizabeth Wesierski, were born near Danzig, Germany. They came to Pittsburgh, Penn., and from there to Sherman County in 1890. Mrs. Michael Grabowski read, wrote and spoke three languages, Polish, German, English. (Times, June 24, 1948).

Displaced Persons in Sherman County

Floyd Janulewicz, merchant of Loup City, and his son Harold, who manages the Golden Rule Dairy, have employed five families of displaced persons. The first families to come, under the auspices of a church association, were Alexander Borysov, his wife and two children, and Victor and Joanne Borzyk. These families preferred city life, and did not remain long.

At present there are three families, Felix Pacjkowski and his wife Anna, who came in March, 1950; as did Walter Hydock and his wife Josephine, and children, Joseph and John; while Alex Kadrowicz and his wife Olga, and their children Peter, Michael and Valentina, arrived Dec. 25, 1951. All came from Poland. The last three families seem contented with Sherman County farm life. (Melvin Janulewicz, March 27, 1952).

Father Milan Kopushur, from Jugosavia, assistant priest at St. Joseph's in Loup City, is able to send food to relatives in his native country, although they live behind the "Iron Curtain".

2. Place Names in Sherman County

The name of the county, Sherman, was given before organization. When the county boundaries were defined, in the bill introduced by the Hon. Leander Gerrard, in 1871, the name Sherman, of the famous Civil War general, was assigned to the proposed county, Towns 13-16 North and Ranges 13-16 East. The organizers are said to have discussed names, but Sherman was retained. As to the county seat name, the organizers while still at Grand Island considered Tecumseh, but that name had been used elsewhere. Loup City was chosen, since the new county-seat was near the bend of the Middle Loup River, which cuts the county transversely.

"Loup" is the French word for wolf. The Skidi tribe of Pawnee Indians, who lived along the Loup, bore the Indian name "skidi"—wolf. Hence Loup City is indeed "wolf", reference to the wolves and coyotes seen by the first white men. It is said that Martin Benschoter, who proposed applying the name to the new county-seat town, as he and three others (Rosseter, Hartley and Knight), sat in a hotel in Grand Island, said he hoped all the wolves would be killed before they arrived with their families. (Nebraska Record, Oct. 1915, letter from Mrs. Alice Rosseter Willard.) W. S. Waite says M. W. Benschoter stated each man placed a town name in a hat, and that the one he submitted came up "first".

Rock Creek, in the southeast corner of the county, derived its name from the deposits near its course. In 1886 C. W. Conhiser and M. A. Hartley opened a "stone" quarry one and one half miles south-east of Rockville.

Deer Creek, Oak Creek, Beaver and Turkey Creek are self-explanatory. The oak trees along that creek are rather dense at its mouth, near Dannbrog, in Howard County, but there are some in the vicinity of Ashton. Early settlers relate that a fire, said to have been started by Indians, had devastated the creek banks in 1869 or 1870. Mrs. Pauline Jung Hansen says that the fallen logs lay along the creek valley, where early settlers sought them for fuel.

Davis Creek, in the extreme northeastern part of the county, was named for John J. Davis, an early settler who built a grist mill in Greeley County (34-17-11), according to surveyor Robert Harvey. (Davis Creek flows into the North Loup River).

On the west side of the river, in the extreme northwest corner of the county, is Cole Creek, spelled "coale" on early maps. It seems to have been named for an early settler, H. Cole. Below it are Moon Creek, Cobb Creek, and Brown Creek, named for early settlers Walter Moon (10-15-15), Asa Cobb (24-15-15) and Rufus J. Brown (24-15-15). Flowing northeast to reach the river, in the center of the county, is Wiggle Creek, named because of its twisting course. An early Methodist district superintendent always referred to it as "Wiggle Tail".

In the southwestern part of the county, Clear Creek and Muddy Creek have names which characterize them. Bloody Run, a branch

of Muddy Creek, received its name from surveyor Robert Harvey, when he "ran" township lines. Indians were reported in the vicinity at the time the survey was made. Since the surveyors were unarmed, they took along extra corner-stakes, to use in defense. They were not molested, but that night, in a jovial mood, surveyor Harvey set down the name "Bloody Run". (Harvey, Misc. Papers). Dry Creek and Beaver Creek on the southern county boundary, are also self-explanatory.

Townships, or precincts, as they developed, were named supposedly by the county commissioners or supervisors, but there is no record of why or by whom they were given. At the time the supervisor system was adopted, some names disappeared, as Clear Creek.

The town name Ashton was given to the new B&M Railroad point, by the J. P. Taylor's, who had come to Nebraska from Ashton, Ill. Litchfield is said to have been named in honor of Litchfield, Connecticut. By whom? Mallory, son-in-law of county surveyor Raymond, came from Danbury, Connecticut. Rockville, according to the Stephens family, was chosen as a name for their postoffice by compromise. W. H. Stephens proposed either Rockford or Laona, town names in his native county in Illinois. Because both were already on the map of Nebraska, authorities changed the "ford" to "ville;" thus Rockville.

McAlpine, between Arcadia and Loup City, was named for T. H. McAlpine, who bought land in the vicinity of the proposed railroad stop. It was platted, but never became a town. Schaupps, between Loup City and Ashton, was named in honor of the Schaupp brothers, John and Adam, grain buyers who built elevators along the B&M.

Hazard has an unknown origin. One story is that it resulted from several attempts to give a name, which were unsuccessful, so some suggested, "Let's hazard another (name)." Some say that there was a large hole near the proposed townsite, When a bystander remarked, "that's a hazard", a name had been found. Still another story is that some one connected with either the C. B. & Q. railroad or the Lincoln Townsite Company had the name Hazard. The name has not been found. (The story that the first name proposed was "Bunnell", in honor of an early settler, has some merit, for W. H. Bunnell had entered land in the vicinity.)

The naming of postoffices was a privilege of the petitioners, with the government approving or disapproving. Thus Loup City, often called Loup town in the early days, was shortened to "Loup" Nov. 10, 1894, but restored to Loup City Jan. 25, 1904.

Cedarville emphasized that cedars were native to the region. Wilhelmshohe, east of Ashton, was the post office of the German settlers, one of whom, Jacob Albers, was the first postmaster. It later became Zeven (zay-ven), another good German name, and more easily pronounced.

J. M. Snyder stated that he chose the name Verdurette because of the waving green grass which he saw on his first trip to the region. (G. C. Snyder, April 10, 1951). The name survives with the cemetery.

Souleville, named for the first settler to die and be buried in the region, is also the name of a still-used cemetery.

Austin, south of Loup City, was named for an early day preacher "Elder" Simeon Austin, who held services in the schoolhouse (Dist. 2) and performed wedding ceremonies, notably that of Jacob K. Criss and Ida Hancock, on Febr. 24, 1877. (Marr. Rec. I.) Old settlers are emphatic in stating that it was not named for Austin Butts, an early settler in the neighborhood. This story was given to a researching reporter (Times, May 8, 1931). It greatly irritated those who remembered "Elder" Austin.

"Divide" seemingly was chosen by M. H. Smith, first postmaster, because his farm was on the "divide". Cleoria, or Cleora (the name is spelled both ways in land transactions and postal records), was probably chosen by its first postmistress, Mrs. Mary E. Zimmerman. It was also the name of the U. B. church where her husband often preached. Members of the family do not know why the name was chosen. A Mrs. Cleora Woods appears in some land transactions which affected the locality.

The postoffice "Fitzalon" became "Furay" after four months. Was Fitzalon too long, or did some one wish to gain the favor of government postal inspector Major Furay? Within a month it became "Paris". When the late Lydia French (Mrs. H. J. Johansen) taught the Paris school, an institute instructor referred to her as "Miss French from Paris".

In 1883 Paris had a blacksmith shop and three sod houses.

Noah and Elling postoffices bore the first names of their earliest postmasters, Noah Vanscoy and Elling Johnson. Denniston and Bentora, in contrast, seem to have been derived from the surnames of the first postmasters, DeWitt C. Denniston and Mrs. Mary E. Bent.

Why postmaster Thomas E. Coverly selected the name Fern is unknown, although Mrs. Ada Minshull Mason does recall the beautiful ferns which grew in the region. Was Hayestown named because of the abundant prairie hay in the area? Jericho, where Ira May was postmaster, had a Biblical origin; was Paradise in reference to the Garden of Eden?

No explanation has been found for the name Balsora, applied to the postoffice, and later to the school and church nearby. The settlers were Swedish, and Balsora cannot be found among them. Miss Amanda Carlson says that she once heard this explanation: William Baillie had applied for the position of postmaster, and when he failed to receive it, he said, in a rich Scotch brogue, "Baillie sorra", and from it came Balsora.

Muddy Mills school, located on Muddy Creek southwest of Litchfield, received its name when Mr. Lang built a mill dam where the road crossed the creek. At the time there were no bridges, so Muddy Creek must be forded. It was noted for the caves of trappers along its sides. Dave Parkhurst of Ravenna trapped in the vicinity as late as 1896.

A prominent landmark of Sherman County was the Lone Elm

tree in the western part of the county, eleven miles west of Loup City, one eighth of a mile south of Highway 92, in the Clear Creek neighborhood, on the so-called F. A. Pinckney farm now occupied by Lewis Adams. In early days the tree was a favorite of cattle and deer for shade, and in the nearby "gully" was a natural salt lick for wild animals many miles around. When prairie fires occurred this was the only tree to survive, because of the trampling out of grass by the animals, and of its slightly isolated position.

After being struck by lightning and tornado in 1947, the tree is not what it once was, but the lower part of the large trunk and some foliage remain. However, it seems to reign over all the "daughter" trees that have sprung up in later years. The school in that district, the church which was organized at the residence of George Hayes (Free Methodist, June 3, 1889), and the nearby cemetery (also called the Gray cemetery), all bore the name Lone Elm. (Misc. Rec. I, 586, Lone Elm Cemetery). The Lonelm postoffice of which Jonathan Arthaud was first postmaster (5-8-2), must have been east of Ash-ton. (Times, June 24, 1938).

Schools, "neighborhoods" which furnished news items to county newspapers, have borne a variety of names. District 28 has been called Rose Valley school for many years; the wild roses must have been abundant there. "Prairie Gem," District No. 72, is something of a misnomer, since the land is rolling. Why Poor Hill, for a region near Litchfield where the F. A. Pinckney's lived? or Skipper's Hill? Scott Center, Prairie Dale, Round Grove, Prairie View, Sunny Slope, Fairview, "Black Basin", Union Ridge,—the list is endless, and would make an interesting study. Some schools bore the name of the family on whose land it stood. District 4 has been known as the Hawk school since its beginning, partly because some member of the Hawk family have always had official connection, as teacher, or official. The name "Round Grove" was used in a land transaction dated July 6, 1875. (Misc. Rec. I, p. 59). Evidently the shape of the trees growing in the bend of creek and river southwest of Loup City made an impression on the first settlers. But why "Mixed" Grove, used for notes from a neighborhood further north?

"Dead Horse", the name applied to the creek east and south of Loup City, has an interesting story.

Late in March, 1873, Capt. John Mix of the 2nd Cavalry, Co. M. was ordered to augment his company with sufficient men of Company C to make 60, then proceed by rail from Omaha to Grand Island. From there they were to march to the vicinity of the settlement "on the north branch of the Loup fork", scouting in advance of the settlements for raiding Indians.

When the detachment reached Loup City, the Easter blizzard of April 12-13, had struck. The settlers advised the soldiers to take their mounts to the timber on the river, where they would be more sheltered. The military, however, decided to leave them in the depression along the creek, while they sought shelter in the store of Frank Ingram, and among the settlers. Captain Mix, Lieut. Beale, and the men

remained three days. When they searched for their mounts, they could not be found. The twenty-five horses and four mules, said by the settlers to have been poor because grass had been their only feed for some time, had been tethered to the wagons in a circle, camp fashion.

The frozen animals floated down the swollen creek when spring came. "See the dead horses run", some one exclaimed. The creek became Dead Horse Creek.

There was a story current among the settlers that storekeeper Frank Ingram presented a bill of \$500.00 to the government for supplies, when his whole stock was worth only \$50.00. A search of the National Archives, War Records Division, in 1950, revealed no such transaction. Lieut. Beale's report had high praise for the hospitality of the settlers, who probably assisted the enlisted men to reach Kearney. (War Records Division, Nov. 3, 1950).

CHAPTER VI

CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES

1. Churches of Loup City

Methodist Episcopal (courtesy of Mrs. Nettie Steen, from a history presented at the 60th anniversary of the church, Sept. 5, 1944).

The first religious services in Loup City were held at the Rosseter Hotel in the fall of 1873. The Reverend "Father" Willard, a Methodist pastor located at Kearney Junction (father of O. B. Willard, county official and editor), preached the sermon. The organ used for the service was loaned by Mrs. J. D. Gilbert, who furnished the instrumental music, according to George Benschoter. (Book of Facts, p. 45). It was carried to the hotel, a distance of two blocks, by George Benschoter and two older brothers. The Rev. Willard continued to preach in Loup City until 1875.

The Rev. C. A. Hale was appointed to preach as supply in Loup City, in 1876. His home was at Douglas Grove, now Comstock. Meetings were held in the schoolhouse which stood in the west part of town, northwest of the Keystone Lumber Company. In the fall of 1876, "on account of grasshoppers, Indian scares, and nothing to live on", Hale moved to the vicinity of Rockville, where he taught school, preaching there and at Loup City during the winter and succeeding summer. In the fall of 1877, he was appointed pastor of the St. Paul circuit, which included Loup City. His instructions, issued by Bishop Bowman, were to go "not farther west than the Rocky Mountains."

From the fall of 1877 to 1879, no Methodist services were held at Loup City. A Congregational minister, the Rev. Abram Maxwell, preached in the courthouse. All so inclined attended services. In the fall of 1879 the Rev. Thomas Aikman was appointed pastor for the Methodist, "doing good work". Next came the Rev. Leslie Stevens, a young man, very popular. He later died on the mission field in China.

In 1881, S. S. Penepacker, also a teacher, held services in the courtroom. The Rev. Wisley Wilson, a cripple, served in 1882.

At the quarterly conference of the official members of the Methodist Episcopal Church held at Loup City, May 28, 1881, C. A. Hale, E. W. Lupton, and S. S. Wox were elected a board of trustees to receive and hold property for the use of the minister and members of the Methodist Church, according to Article 15 of the Book of Discipline.

T. B. Lemon, Superintendent
S. S. Wox, Chairman

(Misc. Rec. I, 127)

March 1, 1882. Organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Loup City charge, West Nebraska Mission. On motion of C. A. Hale, E. W. Lupton was excused from the board of trustees. E. Brewer, W. Benschoter, S. S. Wox, George H. Scott, O. B. Willard, Joseph Clark, John R. Baker, Trustees.

T. B. Lemon, Superintendent
S. S. Wox, Chairman

(Misc. Rec. I, 169)

The office of trustee George Scott was declared vacant, and S. S. Penepacker elected in his stead, March 17, 1883. (Ibid. I, 197). Lots 10, 11, 12 in Lalk and Kreichbaum's Addition to Loup City, were acquired August 13, 1883. A trust bond and mortgage was given by the M. E. Church of the West Nebraska Conference to the Board of Church Extension, State of Pennsylvania, for \$250.00. The buildings were insured for \$800.00. (This referred to the church and later a two-room parsonage just west of the church).

Lumber for the church was hauled overland from Kearney in 1883. It was a lofty, one room structure heated by a large stove and at first lighted by coal-oil lamps in brackets along the walls, later with chandeliers. John M. Taylor was the carpenter in charge. The Rev. Asbury Collins, located in Kearney, was chiefly instrumental in having the church built. He made the trip from Kearney, often on horse-back. C. J. Tracy recalled in July, 1948, that he had worked on the church. S. S. Wox was a carpenter. Articles of Incorporation of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Loup City were signed, May 7, 1884, by S. S. Wox, E. E. Brewer, G. R. Scott, G. R. Penepacker, T. S. Nightingale, and John M. Taylor, with the Rev. Asbury Collins, pastor. In Sept. 1885, trustees J. R. Scott, E. A. Brown, Wm. Sharp, S. S. Wox, J. J. Penepacker, and T. S. Nightingale, resolved to have a parsonage built. M. C. Walworth agreed to build the 16x24 building within 30 days at a cost of \$300.00. One half the amount was to be paid in thirty days and the other half in sixty days. (Misc. Rec. I, 403). This house was first occupied by the Rev. Randolph and family.

Rev. Joseph Gray was pastor from Sept. 1886-Sept. 1888, with Rev. W. C. Wilson presiding elder. In 1887, the Verdurette appointment south of Loup City was disconnected from the Loup City charge. The Rev. J. M. Snyder preached there. In 1886 Mr. John Thornton was examined and given a license to preach. In 1887 Penepacker appointments on Davis Creek bore the name of Oak City, with a membership of 41. In 1887 two local pastors, S. L. Anderson and A. Mingus were examined.

The Rev. T. H. Dry served Loup City and Oak City charges from Sept. 1888 to Sept. 1890. His large family lived in the sand hills. (Mrs. O. E. Briggs, July 24, 1951, said there were 13 children). In 1889 he reported "37 sermons, 110 pastoral calls, two funerals, one wedding, travelled 1500 miles."

In 1889 the Rev. Wm. Ogle (of Austin) was appointed assistant pastor, to take charge of country appointments. Later Oak City was attached to the North Loup circuit. There was a country charge at Fair Play. As pastor, the Rev. Mr. Dry taught a catechism class, acted as Sunday School superintendent, and preached two sermons each Sunday. During his pastorate, the church was painted and a 10x12 addition to the parsonage was built.

Rev. L. W. Chandler served from 1891-93. Trustees Jan. 20, 1891, were Wm. Sharp, Chester J. Tracy, Everett Holcomb, John W. Long, Alfred Watkinson, Elias Brewer, with Rev. B. F. Peck pastor (preceding the Rev. Chandler). (Misc. Rec. II, 54). While the church still owed the M. E. Church Extension Society almost \$200.00, \$114.33 was paid by June, 1893. The janitor work was either paid by individual members, or the work done by members themselves.

The Rev. A. C. Helm served the church from 1893-94. His wife, who organized a Junior League, died in April, 1894, leaving two boys and a girl. Mrs. Helm was buried on the Pyke lot in Evergreen cemetery, where her grave was marked in 1948 by her son, Arthur Helm. The Rev. L. J. McNeill served from 1894-95. At this time C. J. Tracy became an outstanding layman.

Pastors since 1896 have been:

Rev. J. F. Webster, 1896-97; Rev. Walter Matthews, 1897-1900 (Wiggle Creek added); Rev. John Madely, 1900-1905; Rev. William Cowell, 1905-1906 (present parsonage built); Rev. George H. Wise, 1906-1907.

(Church remodelled, old building moved 24 feet west, wing added to the east side, large colored windows installed. Rededication, Nov. 11, 1907, with Mrs. Louisa Collins, widow of early pastor, present. During remodelling, Methodists worshipped with the Baptists, Rev. H. S. Wold, host pastor).

Rev. J. O. Hawk, 1907-1909; Rev. W. C. Harper, 1909-11. (His son, Earl E. Harper, also a minister, and musician, served on the committee which revised the Methodist Hymnal in 1935. A son of the Rev. Joseph Gray, Joseph M. M. Gray, also served on this committee. Earl E. Harper is at present Dean of the Fine Arts College, University of Iowa). Rev. D. A. Leeper, 1911-13; Rev. L. V. Slocumb, 1913-16; Rev. V. R. Beebe, 1916-17; Rev. L. V. Slocumb, 1917-19; Rev. E. H. Maynard, 1919-23; Rev. Allan Chamberlain, 1923-24; Rev. L. V. Hassell, 1924-26; Rev. E. S. Staley, 1926-28; Rev. Raymond Rush, 1928-29; Rev. W. C. Birmingham, 1929-33; (repairs to church made); Rev. Geo. M. Carter, 1933-35; Rev. E. R. Petersen, 1935-39; Rev. C. T. Hawes, 1932-42; Rev. C. F. Luscher, 1942-43; Rev. E. W. Ahrendts, 1943-44; Rev. Grier Hunt, 1945-48 (organ purchased); Rev. David Scott, 1948-51; Rev. Culver Warner, 1951-.

St. Josephat's Catholic Church

St. Josephat's Church of Loup City began in 1881. Catholics in Sherman County were scattered, so that at first they attended serv-

ices at St. Anthony's (near Warsaw) in Howard County, or at Mt. Carmel (Choynice), at Paplin built in 1885. By 1887 ten Catholic families in or near Loup City were served by Father Stuart, a Jesuit priest. Services were conducted in private homes and public buildings whenever possible. (The Register, Nebraska edition, Sept. 5, 1937, loaned by Michael Kaminski).

Loup City Catholics were given 12 lots (half a block) in Bl. 13, by J. Woods Smith, in 1881, on condition that they build a church at once and a school within five years. Accordingly, a small frame church was begun in 1882, not entirely finished. Services were held whenever a priest could come. In 1887, a small frame school was built north of the church. It was used for summer catechism classes, when teaching sisters came to give instruction. (App. Docket I, 128, 154; Sherman County Times, March 17, 31, 1887).

Before he left Loup City, J. Woods Smith presented the Warranty Deed, dated Dec. 6, 1888, to Bishop James O'Connor. He stated that the land was to be used for school and church purposes only. Named as trustees of the congregation were E. J. Delaney, C. J. Odendahl, Aug. Merissen, I. M. Polski, Paul Chlewski, W. A. Wilson, and E. D. Rice.

The cyclone of June 5, 1896, destroyed the church. The school building served for both church and school. Father Boselaus Radka of Ashton served the congregation. When the congregation increased in size, Father I. Jarka of Ashton held services. Father Radka, meanwhile, planned for a new church building.

The present brick church, with beautiful stained glass windows and appointments, was built between 1906 and 1908, "with the generous help of the non-Catholics of Loup City", wrote Father Cudjenski in the Loup City Northwestern, Dec. 21, 1915. The former school building had been moved north of the church, to serve as a rectory. In 1912 the former frame school was moved to the rear of the church, for a parish hall, and an excellent two-story brick rectory was completed. Members of the congregation assisted in the labor. As the congregation increased in size, it became necessary to hold more than one service each Sunday. When the parish was reorganized in 1907, Mathew Janulewicz and Ladislaus Zakrewski were lay members. (Misc. Rec. VI, 216).

The parochial school of St. Josephat's, a frame building with full basement, was built in 1931. The teaching sisters live in a cement block residence built on the northwest corner of the Block, acquired for their use. Later a frame cottage on the southwest corner of the block was secured as a home for the sexton. All of Block 13 was now the property of the church.

The northeast corner of Block 13 was used as a summer playground until 1945, when Block 12 east of the church was acquired. The fine residence built by H. H. Lalk, "the big house", was razed, the grounds levelled, and in the southeast corner flood lights have been installed, where summer softball games are played. The west half of the block is sometimes used as a parking space.

Serving the congregation since 1908 have been: Father Joseph Kolaski, 1908; Father Alexander Cudlinski, 1909; Father Irenacus Jarka, 1915; Father Alexander Grzeszyk, 1931; Father Aloysius Sczerkowski, assistant, Father Czajka; Father L. V. Ziolkowski, 1937 (celebrated his silver jubilee, 1946); assistants Henry Bednarczyk, Herman Ostowski, C. Szumski, Anthony Figerlski; 1947, Father Henry Bednarczyk, assistant, Father Milan Kopushur.

Baptist

Baptists in and near the vicinity of Loup City, encouraged by action at Ord, met at the courthouse in Loup City in March, 1880. Walter Moon and Albert Sloan were elected clerks. The Rev. Mr. Weaver of Ord was to preach once a month. The Rev. R. P. Russell, an assistant geologist at the University of Nebraska, began a two-year service in 1882. He built a home, later occupied by Mr. Henry Jenner and family, on the bluff east of Loup City.

At a meeting held Oct. 29, 1887, trustees were chosen to make possible the acquiring and holding of property. M. A. Theiss, Cyrus W. Hills, R. J. Nightingale, Walter Moon, and J. A. Angier were named. (Misc. Rec. I, 550). The Rev. J. D. Stapp conducted services for the Baptist congregation in the newly-built opera house in 1887. A frame building was built at a cost of \$1386.00. It was dedicated Sunday, Dec. 16, 1888. Charter members of the church were:

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Moon; Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Angier, son Edwin and daughter Ella; Alice, Eliza, and Eva Callen, and Albert Sloan. (Times, Sept. 25, 1947).

Because the Baptists did not always have a resident pastor, they permitted other denominations to use the church; the Episcopalians used it in 1895, and later the German Evangelical congregation, and others. The payment of rent was refused. A choir, which drew from the musical talent of the town, was outstanding in 1889. Sopranos were Mrs. Whaley, Mrs. E. G. Kriechbaum, Mattie Raymond, Martha Gallaway, Mattie Roberts; altos, Mrs. W. R. Mellor, Mrs. G. M. Raymond; tenors, W. Z. Lee, M. A. Theiss, A. S. Phillips; bass, Fred Bacon, W. R. Mellor, D. W. King.

This first church was damaged by the cyclone of 1896, when it was partly moved from its foundation, then set back upon it. Repairs were soon made. In 1904, two lots were purchased west of the church, and a two-story frame parsonage was built. While the Methodists remodelled their church in 1906, the two congregations worshipped together.

In 1917 the Baptists remodelled and added a full basement, with rededication services the first Sunday in October of that year. This frame building was virtually destroyed by fire on November 17, 1918. A new brick building was dedicated on July 18, 1919.

For a third time, on February 3, 1920, the Baptist Church was seriously damaged, again by fire. It was rebuilt in the present manner, with a gallery, full basement, and stained glass windows. Accommodations for Sunday School work are complete, including a loud-speaker inter-communications system. The church was incorporated in Janu-

ary, 1920. Milo Gilbert, C. R. Sweetland and Herman Jung were trustees.

This church congregation has been outstanding in the support of missions. From May 1, 1946 to Apr. 30, 1947, it contributed \$2300.00 to mission projects and \$2700.00 for local expenses.

One project of the Baptist Ladies' Aid was the publication of a Loup City Cook Book, in 1902. With names of women from all churches or organizations, it recalls earlier days. Another project was the erection of a log cabin at the Sherman County Fair Grounds, in 1922. Logs were obtained from town lots with oversize trees, and from farms. Milo Gilbert supervised its building. Here the ladies served meals during the fair, not only during the day, but early in the morning to the concession holders. The 20x60 foot dining-room and kitchen were removed in 1933 when the auditorium was built. (Contract between Sherman County Agricultural Society, C. F. Beusheusen, secretary, and Mrs. A. E. Chase, president, and Mrs. H. W. Shipley, secretary, Baptist Ladies Aid).

Pastors who have served the First Baptist Church of Loup City:

Rev. B. P. Russell, Oct. 1888-Nov. 1, 1889; Rev. H. S. Cooper, 1889-May, 1890; Rev. E. G. Boyer, Nov. 1891-93; Rev. Miller, 1894-96. From 1896 to 1903 the Rev. Shattuck, Rev. Hill, and Rev. Sutherland from the Baptist College at Grand Island served the congregation at times. Rev. L. D. Wey, 1901-1903; Rev. Kennedy, 1903-04; Rev. H. S. Wold, Oct. 1904-1906 (he frequently preached to his fellow-countrymen in Swedish); Rev. Guernsey, Jan. to Sept. 1907; Rev. D. W. James (his illness led to his father's preaching for him) to May, 1910; Rev. M. C. Poweers, 1911-12, and Dr. Sutherland, 1912-14, both coming from Grand Island; Rev. J. L. Dunn, May, 1914-March 1, 1924; Rev. J. F. Taylor, June 1, 1924-May 1, 1926; Rev. F. F. Bock, May 1, 1926-April, 1929; Rev. E. C. Barton, May, 1929-May 1, 1930; Rev. Wm. McPhearin, May to Oct. 1935; Rev. Francis K. Allen, Oct. 1935-Jan. 29, 1939; Rev. M. H. Knobloch, Febr. 1939-Sept. 22, 1943; Rev. Guy W. Byers, Sept. 22, 1943-July 1, 1945; Rev. Gerald Sanders, Oct. 1, 1945-Jan. 15, 1948; Rev. S. A. Oakes, Sept. 26, 1948 to present

(Times, Sept. 25, 1947, list of pastors furnished by the Rev. S. A. Oakes; Mrs. A. E. Chase, March 24, 1951).

First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church of Loup City filed organization proceedings of Oct. 28, 1888, on June 12, 1891 (Misc. Rec. II, 152). Charter members listed were:

John W. Plummer, Mrs. Rebecca T. Plummer, Jas. A. Converse, Mrs. Maria S. Converse, Andrew J. Smith, Edward M. Higgins, Mrs. Linnie M. Higgins, Mrs. Margaret Simpson, Mrs. Mary A. McFadden, Daniel D. Grow, Thomas M. Reed, Mrs. Hattie L. Reed, Mrs. Minnie C. Scruggs, Charles A. Wheeler, Mrs. Eva D. Wheeler, Hugh McFadden, Mrs. Elizabeth Baillie.

Trustees, ordained by elders in 1891, were John W. Plummer, three years; Chas. A. Wheeler and Hugh McFadden, two years, and James Baillie and D. A. Jackson, one year. Elders were: Andrew J. Smith, five years; James A. Converse, four years; Daniel D. Grow, three years. D. D. Grow was clerk, and Thomas L. Sexton, Superintendent of the Presbyterian Home Missions of the Nebraska Mission, was chairman. (Misc. Rec. II, 152).

Loup City Presbyterians held services in Walworth's Hall, in 1888. Mrs. A. B. Outhouse, living at the St. Elmo Hotel because of a housing shortage, served for a time as organist. Rev. P. J. Black at times served the congregation. A social was held at Wheeler's in February, 1888. (Times, Febr. 14, 1888).

During the nineties a number of the charter members left Loup City, Plummerts, Higgins, Scruggs and Wheelers among them. The Rev. N. C. Johnson of Kearney, a Presbyterian mission worker, held services at the Loup City Baptist Church and also at Moore's school-house, in 1897. In 1898 and 1899 Walworth's Hall was used. The Rev. F. C. Graves held meetings in the Evangelical Church at Loup City, and also at Austin and Rockville, in 1902. In August, 1902, a concert was given for the support of the church. The Ashton Church was at this time served by the Rev. George Longstaff.

A meeting of those interested was called by the Rev. N. C. Johnson, pastor-at-large of the Kearney Presbytery, November 20, 1905, at the Evangelical Church. The Rev. George A. Ray of St. Paul explained the church creed, then presented the petition for organization of the First Presbyterian Church of Loup City. On Nov. 28, 1905, twenty-three signed the charter, all but three presenting letters from other churches. They were:

Mr. and Mrs. Ward VerValin, Mrs. J. F. Nicoson, Edna Minshull, C. H. Leininger, Mrs. C. H. Leininger, E. G. Taylor, Mrs. E. G. Taylor, Mrs. W. A. Hayes, Sadie Swanson, E. E. Tracy, Mrs. E. E. Tracy, Maud Reynolds, Mrs. A. P. Culley, Lizzie Leininger, Mrs. T. A. Taylor, Mrs. H. Leininger, Henry B. Musser, Harry Musser, Mrs. W. F. Mason, Esther Musser, Mrs. C. C. Cooper, and Mrs. H. B. Musser. Elders ordained, E. G. Taylor, C. H. Leininger, Ward VerValin; trustees, H. B. Musser, G. S. Leininger, Mrs. A. P. Culley, E. E. Tracy, and W. A. Hayes. Some of the members, the Leiningers and Edna Minshull, had been Congregationalists.

The church building and manse, three blocks north of the hotel, were built during the summer of 1906, and dedicated on Oct. 21, 1906, by Thomas L. Sexton, synodical pastor. The stained glass windows of this church are of such quality that several attempts have been made by churches elsewhere to purchase them. During Christmas week they remain lighted all night, a suggestion of Edward Guilford.

General Assembly Minutes of the Presbyterian Church, in Omaha, searched by Miss Byrdee Needham, Jan., 1952, give the following facts: 1889, Rev. S. Black pastor at Loup City, 20 members, 55 in Sunday School; 1890, Benjamin P. Russell at Loup City, also at Ashton; 23 members at Loup City, 11 at Ashton; 1892, Loup City pastor, Chas. N. Armstrong, 23 members, Ashton 26; 1892-1899, Loup City vacant.

Pastors who have served and their terms are:

Rev. L. C. McEwen, Febr. 1906-Dec. 1908; Rev. D. W. Montgomery, Jan. 1909-April 1911; Rev. J. C. Tourtellot, April 1911-Febr. 1914; Rev. E. M. Steen, March 1914-1918; Rev. J. B. Bandy, 1918-1919; Rev. J. H. Salisbury, 1919-1921; Rev. F. E. Black, 1922-1925; Rev. A. Meierhoff, 1925-1929; Rev. L. M. Harwood, 1929-1941; Rev. W. P. Thompson, 1941-44; Rev. James E. Harris, 1944-51; Rev. James Laird, 1951-.

Congregational Church

Trustees of the First Congregational Church of Loup City were elected at a meeting held Febr. 13, 1882: John C. Edmonson, Chester Trácy, and D. D. Grow. Edmonson acted as clerk. (Misc. Rec. I, 163). The trustees received a deed to Lots 9-12, Barker's First Addition, Aug. 29, 1882; price \$182.00. It was later disposed of. (Deed Rec. 4, 572, 444; 5, 505). Since the Presbyterians were greater in numbers, the Congregationalists did not press the organization of a church. Occasionally the Congregational minister from Arcadia held a service in Loup City.

Seventh Day Adventist

While a few meetings were held previously, adherents of this faith held a meeting at Loup City Oct. 13, 1894, under the leadership of Elder Lamson. Thirty-nine members were enrolled. Meetings were held in a room of the Porter Block (west of the courthouse) until 1900.

A church building, 20x30, located on lots 3, 4, 5, Bl. on Highway 92, was completed and dedicated on May 26, 1900. This was made possible by the guidance of Elder Brown and work donated by members of the Loup City and Boelus congregations. The deed was recorded and placed in the hands of the conference on September 12, 1900. Two blocks south of main, now "O" Street, on Highway 92, it is known as "The Little White Church". The original cost was about \$600.00.

Church officials in 1905 were Elder T. A. Robinson; deacon, R. L. Christian; deacon, Perry Hayes. Camp meetings were held for several years along Dead Horse Creek south of town, on a tract of meadow extending from Jenner's Park to the bridge. (Times, May 12, 1904).

Pastors were: Elder Nettleton, 1895; Elders E. S. Smith and E. L. Stuart, 1897-99; Elders J. W. Boynton and Brown, 1900-1901; Elder A. T. Robinson, 1903-04; Elder L. E. Johnson, 1905; Elder Fred Hahn, 1906; Elder O. A. Hall, 1908.

Services were held from 1909 to 1919 in the Austin schoolhouse, with Elders Hale, E. L. Cook, L. E. Johnson, and Beason preaching at various times. Church school was held in 1912-13 at Austin. No services were held from 1919-24. Sabbath school was held at homes of the members. A Swedish congregation used the church some of the time.

In 1930 R. E. Hays and Alfred Vercio reorganized the congregation, with the 28 members holding service regularly. Rev. Vercio located in Lincoln in 1932. In October, 1949, Elder Dierksen and Gerald Williams began remodelling and cleaning the church. It was modernized, with gas heat, repainted and redecorated. Gerald Williams and family remained until 1951, when he became a missionary in foreign fields. Ministers serving the congregation in 1951 are T. B. Westbrook, G. E. Hatches, T. W. Jensen, E. E. Hagen, Elder Purdum, Elder Wentland, Elder C. E. Mock. Elder Austin Niesner is serving in 1952. (Courtesy of Mrs. Joseph Holmes).

Swedish Christian Church

Swedish Christian Church services were held by H. Blom in the Loup City Baptist Church in June, 1911. At this time not only Rev.

Blom, but also Rev. F. O. Gustafson and W. A. Blomstrand of Aurora, and Rev. G. D. Hall of Stromsburg preached to the group. Rev. C. G. F. Johnson, who farmed west of Loup City, also filled Rev. Blom's pulpit. In 1915, Rev. Theodor Young served. Services were held in the German Evangelical Church, with the Christmas Day Julotta observed at 6 a.m. on Christmas, 1916. In 1918 the Rev. S. Wallquist preached. (Times, *passim*)

Evangelical Covenant

The Evangelical Covenant had the services of these pastors, Rev. B. Bengston, 1930; Rev. Carl E. Dahlstedt, 1932; Rev. Leslie F. McCue, 1934; Rev. Dwight N. Johnson, 1936 (also preached at Lone Elm). From 1930-34 services were held in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, advertised as "The Little White Church on the White Way". A special school of religious instruction for children was held in the summer, with members bringing children from rural districts. (Times, *passim*).

St. Paul's Evangelical (and Reformed) Church

St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Loup City was organized on October 24, 1897, with the assistance of the Rev. Paul Quarder. Trustees elected were Jacob Albers and William Strankman for two years and Fred Thode and Fred Strankman for one year. The meetings were held in the First Baptist Church of Loup City.

Trustees in 1899 were Fred Johnson, Jurgen Jens, and John Ohlsen serving for three years, with Jacob Albert secretary, and William Cramer treasurer. (Misc. Rec. II, 560).

April 19, 1901 trustees were chosen to supervise the building of a church: Fred Thode, president; William Cramer, secretary; John Ohlsem, treasurer; Christ. Johansen and Jurgen Jens. The brick church located on the northwest corner of the second block north of the Frederick Hotel was built in 1901. Rev. G. Robertus was the first resident pastor.

A two-story brick parsonage was built in northwest Loup City, in May, 1912. John Ohlsen and Sons were contractors for both church and parsonage. The Presbyterians used this church for Christian Endeavor services in 1902. It was also used as a primary room for District No. 1 in 1912.

Pastors who have served St. Paul's were: Rev. Quarder, Oct. 1897-June 1898; Rev. G. Robertus, 1898-1902; Rev. G. A. Kanzler, 1902-04; Rev. Graber; Rev. P. Jueling, 1904- ; Rev. F. W. Guth; Rev. Thomas Marshall, 1920-25; Rev. J. G. Ruhl, 1925-31; Rev. Carl Burkle, 1931-39; Rev. L. G. Marx, 1940-44; Earl G. Buck, student supply pastor, 1945; Rev. V. F. Deditious, 1946-48.

To the church name, St. Paul's Evangelical, "and Reformed", was added in 1934, due to union with a Reformed Church. Because of declining membership, the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, the Zeven Church southeast of Ashton, began holding services in the Loup City Evangelical and Reformed Church, in 1949. St. Paul's at present lacks a pastor. (Information from newspapers.)

Episcopalian Church in Loup City

Episcopalians had services in Loup City at stated intervals, to serve the "English crowd" and adherents from eastern United States. The Mathew, Jenner, Wharton, and Hansel families were among the regular attendants, also the R. J. Nightingale's, Walworths and G. W. Raymonds.

Services were usually held in a hall or the Baptist Church. Later the German Evangelical (St. Paul's) or the Presbyterian Church were used. Ord for a time had a resident pastor who came to Loup City. The Rev. E. C. Maiman, Bishop Graves (1890), Rev. Osborne (1899), Bishop Beecher, but most often, the Rev. J. M. Bates of Red Cloud held services in Loup City. The Rev. Mr. Bates was an enthusiastic botanist. When R. E. Dale was superintendent of the Loup City schools, (1906-8), the Rev. Mr. Bates regularly gave nature talks to the high school. Robert Jenner recalls that the Rev. Bates found Jenner's Park a wonderful place for the study of lichens.

(Information from newspaper files and Robert Jenner).

2. Rural Churches of Sherman County

United Brethren of Cleoria

A small sod church, referred to as a chapel, was built near the Cleoria postoffice, on the A. L. Zimmerman farm, in 1888. Rev. J. Zimmerman of Shelton who visited relatives in the vicinity, appears to have served the group. It is difficult to secure information, because members have moved from the scene. Church conference records were carefully searched by Mrs. Arthur Core, wife of the State Superintendent of the Nebraska Conference of U. B. Churches, at York, in January, 1947. This information was secured:

13th Session, West Nebraska Conference, 1898, p. 60. Loup City has the earnest and faithful labors of J. W. Jones; at Cleoria, a new frame church was built and partly furnished.

26th Annual Session, West Nebraska Conference, 1902, p. 291: Litchfield had J. W. Cummings of the St. Joseph Conference. He has already accomplished much. Cleoria has been greatly revived and strengthened.

34th Session, 1910: Much needed repairs are being made on the Cleoria Church.

In the Miscellaneous Records in the office of county clerk, I, 153, is recorded:

The incorporation of the Cleoria Church, Arcadia Circuit, Church of the United Brethren in Christ, at Verdurette, April 22, 1893. Dr. N. L. Talbot, secretary; trustees, George Zimmerman, J. H. Bone, A. E. Hottel; presiding elder, O. Whitmore.

Mrs. A. L. Zimmerman in later years told how, having decided that the sod church should be replaced, she and her sister, Mrs. J. H. Kilpatrick, "hitched up the horse" one Sunday afternoon in 1898, and drove around to solicit funds for the frame church at Cleoria. Her husband, Rev. A. L. Zimmerman, preached in the church after they had moved to Loup City. A camp meeting was held there in 1896, also a Sunday School Convention.

The Cleoria church building was dismantled in 1922, when the newly-formed school district No. 82 purchased it to use the lumber in the new school building. (Mrs. Elma Corning Zwink, Mr. Ben Carter).

A HISTORY OF SHERMAN COUNTY, NEBRASKA 127

Remaining to mark the site of the church is a small fenced cemetery just off the White Way eight miles west of Loup City. At the top of the hill are three monuments:

Anna S. and Joseph Simonds and Elna R. Simonds		
d. 1895	d. 1903	b. 1894
aged 34	aged 29	d. 1896
H. J. Heller	William T. Lawrence	
d. Sept. 12, 1884	d. Jan. 24, 1889	
36 years	33 years of age	

(In connection with the death of William T. Lawrence, this story is told. He was studying at the Shelton Academy to become a minister, and worked on a farm near Cleoria Church, with whose services he assisted. He was nursed in his illness by the family, but his own family, far from appreciating the kindness, threatened to sue the Cleoria friends).

Balsora Baptist Church

With the Rev. V. F. Fagelstrom of Kearney presiding as conference missionary of Nebraska, the Balsora Baptist Church was organized May 10, 1885. Charter members were: P. O. Malm and wife, J. A. Swanson and wife, H. Sandh and wife Sarah Sandh. Elected moderator to preach was J. A. Swanson; H. Sandh, moderator and deacon. Additional members were:

Andrew Lind and wife (May 16); John Nordstrom and wife Petronella (May 31); Nils Olson (June 1); John Anderson and wife Cecilia and Agneta Maria Carlson (August 9, 1885). The membership was Swedish, as the names indicate.

Services were held in the sod homes of members and in the sod schoolhouse which stood on the Nordstrom land. They were conducted by laymen and occasionally by visiting pastors. Members who preached were: J. A. Swanson, Andrew Malm, John Nordstrom, and J. Sandh. By 1895 there were twenty-four members added. Lord's Supper was observed the first Sunday of each month, at the homes of church officials, six months at one home, six at another, chosen at the annual business meeting. A 16x24 sod building was erected on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 11-16-16, with Andrew Malm, John Nordstrom, and Gust. Nordstrom overseeing its construction. A cemetery was laid out one and one half miles east, on a sloping hillside.

In the first years of the sod church, seventeen young people and adults were baptized by Andrew Malm, ordained deacon. Besides their own church, the congregation supported foreign missions and other denominational projects. In the spring of 1896, the Rev. A. F. Malm of Stark visited the field to baptize six from the Sunday School and several adults.

A charter member, H. Sandh, affiliated with the Danish Baptist Church of Turtle Creek, Nebraska, became pastor at Balsora in 1900. A frame church was begun in the fall of 1902, completed and dedicated in 1903. When the building was destroyed by a tornado in July, 1904, a second frame building was at once built, with the aid of the members, the conference, sister churches and donated labor.

Student pastor Andrew Larson served Balsora and Dry Valley churches during the summer of 1906. A five-room parsonage was built

in 1907, on land purchased from Andrew Pierson, on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 2-16-16, one and one half miles north of the cemetery. (Misc. Rec. IV, 23; VI 216, 219).

Succeeding pastors were: Rev. Olaf Taflin, of Mandan, N. D., 1908-Apr. 1, 1910; Rev. John A. Goos of Gothenburg, fall of 1910-1916; Fred E. Johnson, student from Bethel Seminary; summers of 1916 and 1917, ordained at Balsora Sept. 29, 1917; Rev. and Mrs. Elmer Sloan, 1936-39; Rev. F. E. Johnson, 1941-45; Rev. Ray McColley, Oct. 1946-50.

Balsora Church observed its fiftieth anniversary Sept. 2, 1935, with the Rev. C. V. Anderson speaking at the memorial service at the cemetery. A light plant was installed in the church in 1946, suggested and partly financed by Mr. and Mrs. Philip Minne.

Because of poor roads, and the fact that a number of members now resided in Arcadia, it was decided on Sept. 27, 1947, to move the church to Arcadia. The first excavation was made in July, 1948, under the supervision of the Rev. Malcolm of Albin, Wyoming. First services were held in the basement, at present serving as a place of worship. The new congregation took the name Calvary Baptist Church. The building in the country, at Balsora, was razed, with the lumber available for use when the building in Arcadia is completed. (Courtesy of Miss Amanda Carlson, April 24, 1949).

Austin Presbyterian

Services were held in the Austin schoolhouse since earliest pioneer days. The families of William Hayes, John Needham, Carpenters, Ogles and Chapmans maintained a Sunday School there. Mrs. Emil Schoening (Ethel Chapman) recalls how straw was placed in the bottom of the wagon to make it warmer for the children riding to Sunday School. Wm. H. Ogle was a local licensed minister attached to the Loup City charge as assistant pastor in 1889. He was remembered at Austin as one who preached fire, brimstone, and damnation, which did not attract the younger generation.

The Reverend Nelse C. Johnson of Kearney, pastor-at-large of the Presbyterian Church, held services at the schoolhouse in 1897. Mrs. Nina Hayes Nicoson recalled how when she went forward he said to her, "You will be the first member of the new church." She added, "Later in the spring Rev. Graves organized the church."

General Assembly Minute Books show Austin as vacant in 1898, so the church must have been organized then. In 1906 formal organization occurred (Febr. 3, 1906; Misc. Rec. VI, 183). Trustees were: J. B. Connor, 5 years; Wm. Engle, 4 years; D. B. Carpenter, 3 years; Milton Rentfrow, 2 years; John S. Needham, 1 year. Miss Byrdee Needham was clerk, D. B. Carpenter secretary of the Board of Trustees in 1907, when the church was built on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 10-14-14, and dedicated Aug. 3, 1907 (Misc. Rec. VI, 249).

Pastors of the Loup City Presbyterian Church preached at Austin regularly after the church was built. Because of removal of members, it was decided to disband. The church was bought by a man from Gibbon, who tore it down. (Minutes of General Assembly and Synods, Theological Seminary. Omaha, searched by Byrdee Needham, May 1, 1951, and Jan. 16, 1952).

Beulah Chapel (United Brethren)

The United Brethren in Christ first held services in the Gray Schoolhouse (Dist. No. 25, 3 miles northwest of Litchfield) in 1891. (Litchfield Monitor, Aug. 1, 1914). Families in the vicinity maintained a strong Sunday School, and a choir, with preaching services held when possible. Mrs. Albert Anderstrom recalls that her father, E. B. Corning, always sang in the choir. Mrs. Mary Heapy was organist. A Mrs. Thomas and her daughter Stella, the Henry Beck, A. J. Willson, Corning and Will Beck families were active in the organization.

When the small daughter of H. J. Becks died, it was decided to build a church near the Gray cemetery and schoolhouse, to be named Beulah Chapel in memory of the little girl. Solicitation of funds was begun in the summer of 1909. (Monitor, July 30, 1909). The cornerstone was laid May 29, with the Rev. W. C. Miller giving the address. The building was dedicated July 10, 1910, when the Rev. Dr. Shell, pastor of the United Brethren College at York, Nebraska, preached the sermon. It was said that the building had cost nearly \$2000.00. The offering that day to remove the remaining indebtedness of \$300.00 was \$384.59. (Monitor, July 22, 1910).

Church meetings continued to be held, but gradually member families moved. When Mr. Albert Heapy acquired the land on which the church stood, he moved it to a nearby farm, in 8-14-16, where it is used as a granary.

Evangelical Lutheran Emanuel Society of Custer County

The Evangelical Lutheran Emanuel Society of Custer County received five acres in Scott Township, 5-13-16, from Joseph Kabiser and wife, March 16, 1909. (Deed Record, 20, p. 414). According to Mr. Will Kabiser, a combined church and parsonage was built on the site. Evidently the larger part of the membership resided in Custer County.

In 1942, a transfer of property is recorded, whereby Fritz Schultz and Fritz Gurhein, trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Emanuel Society, paid \$75.00 for five acres. (Deed Rec. 48, p. 89). The transaction took place Oct. 13, 1906, but was not recorded until June 20, 1942.

Mr. Kabiser states that the church-parsonage building was sold to two church members, who razed it, hauled the lumber four miles southwest of Litchfield, where they built a house. The church was standing in 1920, when the Sherman County Atlas was issued. (Mr. Will Kabiser, letter, Nov. 6, 1951).

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Zeven

The Immanuel Lutheran Church of Zeven (Wilhelmshohe) built a sod church in 1879. It was replaced by one of frame, 18x30 feet, built at a cost of about \$300.00, and dedicated in December, 1883. It stood in the corner of 7-13-15, on land now owned by the Glinsmans, near the cemetery. A story and a half parsonage was built in 1896.

Pastors who served this church also served other Lutheran Churches. Pastor Jahn, 1883; Pastors, Duver, August Schorman (who served Hayestown, Litchfield, Sweetwater, and Ashton), Emil Albrecht, Schorman (second time), Engle (Zeven united with Kelso), Gundlach, Durr,

Jung, Hendrickson, Maschoff, Tresko, Kurth, Gundlach, Harms, Hoffman, Wilkins, Jung, Schwarz, Tebler.

In 1949, because of the smaller congregation, it was decided to hold services at St. Paul's Evangelical Church in Loup City. In Oct. 1951, the congregation acquired lots on highway 92, at the southeast edge of town. It is the plan to move a church recently abandoned, from Mira Valley in Custer County. Older members still have the Zeven Church opened for weddings or funerals.

Names of families on the church roll are: Newman, Behrens, Glinsman, Jaeschke, Heins, Schraft, Heinrich, Roeker, Krumweide, Martens, Ritz, Hankins, Knoepfel, Kruse, Schumann, Gudenrath, Baumann, Elshof. (Information furnished by P. F. A. Glinsman, July, 1947).

Pastor George Weller of Christ Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Nebraska, serves the combined parish of Christ Lutheran and ~~St. Paul's~~ *IMMANUEL* at Loup City.

The Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, near Ashton, Sherman County, Nebraska, on June 25, 1952, amended their Articles of Incorporation to change the name to the "Immanuel Lutheran Church of Loup City, Nebraska," with Emil Glinsman Chairman of the Board of Trustees. (Times, June 26, 1952)

Wesleyan and Free Methodist, Mennonite

The Wesleyan Methodist Mission Society of Nebraska filed articles of incorporation on August 25, 1886, of a meeting held on Nov. 25, 1885. J. M. Snyder, a minister of that faith (he commanded a company in the Civil War made up of church members in his county in Illinois) was chairman; James A. Clark, secretary; M. C. Moon, treasurer; and J. E. Hawley and C. W. Cass trustees. There was a provision that no debts be incurred above \$300.00. (Misc. Rec. I, 425).

The Rev. J. M. Snyder often filled pulpits in Sherman and adjacent counties, and organized Wesleyan Methodist Societies in York County. A newspaper item of 1894 mentions two elders who lived at Verdurette (post office on the Snyder ranch at first), Elder A. Howe, and Elder J. M. Snyder).

The Lone Elm Society of the Free Methodist Church was organized at the home of George Hayes June 3, 1889, at 9 p.m. (Misc. Rec. II, p. 32). Perry Armstrong, George Hayes, and J. Wankhr are named trustees, with J. S. Ogg as chief clerk. The Litchfield Monitor, Sept. 9, 1910, reported that the Free Methodists of Hazard held their quarterly meeting Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Hazard M. E. Church. Rev. Hayhurst is referred to as a Free Methodist minister. (Monitor, June, 1911).

Mention is made in the Litchfield Monitor of services held in the vicinity by "Dunkerds", Mennonites. There was a settlement of members of that faith near Arcadia at one time. (Mrs. A. Anderstrom, Oct. 18, 1951.) Monitor, Dec. 2, 1910, mentioned that the Rev. McClelland of the Dunkerd church conducted a funeral service in the Christian

Church of Litchfield, also that they held a Thanksgiving service in the Prairie Hill Schoolhouse.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran, Germantown

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germantown, was organized August 6, 1883, with nine members:

1. Crestian Wolfe; 2. Henry Herchenroeder; 3. August Lade, Sr.; 4. August Lade, Jr.; 5. Carl de la Motte; 6. August Mickish; 7. August Polenz; 8. Carl Krause; 9. Julius Polenz. (Misc. Rec. II, 263).

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germantown, Hazard Township, was deeded 4 and 2-3 acres for church and burying ground, in the SW corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 14-13-15, by Dora Wolf, on June 11, 1890. Carl de la Motte and Jacob Wolf, witnesses. Deed filed Aug. 3, 1890. (Deed Rec. 13, p. 314).

The first church building was of sod, 18x24, dedicated in 1885. A frame building, larger, was begun in 1897, completed in 1898, except the tower, which was raised from 20 feet to 30 feet in 1899. The main church is 24x36; altar and vestibule, 12x12; hall, 8x8. The bell was given by Mrs. Julius Polenz. The cost of the building was over \$1100.00.

Church officials were recorded in April 19, 1892: Andreas Damm, Gust. Hohlfeld, Aug. Lade, Sr., August Mickish, C. Aug. Lade, Gust. Lade, Jacob Woltz, Julius Polenz, Carl de la Motte. (Misc. Rec. II, 263-4).

In 1923 the name was changed to Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Congregation of Hazard. (Edwin de la Motte, Febr. 26, 1952). Pastors who served the church were:

Pastor Baumhoefer of Grand Island, prior to 1883; 1883-86, Pastor George Schroeder; 1887-1891, Pastor John Baumgartner (circuit pastor from Greendale, Buffalo County); 1891-92, Pastor H. Schabacker; 1892-94, Pastor E. Hoch; 1894-1901, Pastor A. A. Scharmann; 1901-Sept. 1905, Pastor E. Herzberg; 1904 (July)-1907, Pastor H. Brunz; 1907-1910, vacant, served by Pastor Leinhart of Litchfield and Pastor Harre; 1910-1913, Pastor Theodore Norden (lived in the new parsonage); 1913 (July 6)-1919, united with Litchfield congregation, served jointly by Pastor C. Petersen; 1919, merger severed; 1920-23, Pastor C. F. Spitz; 1923-25, served by vacancy pastor; 1925-36, Pastor Henry Dahnke; 1937-41, merged with Litchfield, served by Pastor V. Joerdening; 1941-45, Pastor M. Elmshauser; May 1945-Oct., served by Pastor G. O. Kebshull, Ravenna; Latest services, Oct. 7, 1945; Vacancy pastors, E. Duerr, W. Butzig, Wm. Pebler, G. O. Kebshull.

The pews were sold to a mission in Bellevue, Nebraska. The parsonage, barn and other buildings sold to private parties. The church building and bell are at present for sale. Dismantling and sale in charge of Herman Lade, Hazard, Nebr. (Edwin de la Motte, Nov. 14, 1951).

Trinity Lutheran Church, Hayestown (Bristol Township)

(Courtesy of Rev. G. O. Kebshull, Ravenna, Nebr.)

This congregation was organized in 1882 by five families newly immigrated from Germany:

Mr. and Mrs. John Hetzel and eight children; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Guenther and two children; Mr. and Mrs. George Hauser and five children; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Kraemer and two children; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stein and seven children.

Services were at first held in school houses and private homes. In 1889 a church building was erected which served until 1924, when a larger church building was moved from Sweetwater to land owned by the congregation. In 1887 land for the cemetery had been bought from Fred Stine (Deed Book X, p. 2950) Julius Buss was president, Fred Stine (sic) vice-president, and Matthias Zeller treasurer, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 28-13-14, Dec. 27, 1887).

At one time a parsonage which stood just north of the church was owned by the congregation. About 1941 it was sold and dismantled. The first church building was used for a parochial school after 1924.

Pastors who served Trinity Lutheran of Hayestown were: Rev. F. H. Jahn of St. Libory (prior to 1882); Rev. C. G. Schroeder of Watertown; Rev. J. Baumgartner; Rev. Emil Duerr, 1891-93; Rev. A. A. Schormann, 1894-1901; Rev. H. C. Bruss, 1901-1904; no pastor, 1904-1909, served by pastors from Hazard and Ashton; Rev. J. Duerr, 1909-11; Rev. C. Kurth, 1911-1914; Rev. J. Schliepsick, 1914-18; Pastor Wm. Pebler, 1918-1934; 1934-36, united with the Bethlehem congregation of Ravenna; 1936, united with Ravenna congregation, served by the Rev. G. O. Kebshull until dissolution of Trinity of Bristol in 1947.

When the congregation disbanded in 1937, the building was sold to Christ Lutheran of St. Paul, who planned to move it to St. Paul. When this proved not feasible, the St. Paul congregation sold the building to the Ravenna VFW, which moved it to Ravenna, locating it north of town. All members of the Hayestown Trinity Lutheran lived in Sherman County with the exception of two families who lived in Buffalo County and one in Howard County.

Mt. Hope Methodist Church, Sherman County

The Board of Trustees of Mt. Hope Methodist Episcopal Church, Sherman County, Nebraska, incorporated May 7, 1884, were: Rev. A. Collins, secretary; P. O. Johnson, president; John P. Taylor, Alonzo Mingus, Frederick Starr. On July 18, 1884, this organization, in the West Nebraska Mission, was loaned \$400.00 by the Board of Church Extension. (Misc. Rec. I, 244, 245; Mort. Rec. 3, 206-209). Two days before, July 16, 1884, Thomas and Jane Bly had deeded to Trustee of the M. E. Church of Mt. Hope, the southeast corner of 34-15-13, for church and cemetery purposes. (Deed Rec. 4, 23).

Old timers state that the lumber for the church was hauled from St. Paul, and built by John P. Taylor. It was destroyed by a cyclone late that summer. (Times, Febr. 8, 1887). Since the railroad had reached Ashton in 1887 there was talk of the Methodists building in Ashton. The Lincoln Townsite Company would donate a lot, on which to build a church, "to replace the fine church destroyed by a cyclone in 1884." Trustees had been named, James H. Owens, Alonzo Mingus, Ira B. Way. (Misc. Rec. I, 588). James H. Owens, one of the organizers of the Keystone Lumber Company, left Sherman County in 1888. Ira Way and Alonzo Mingus had been mentioned in connection with the second quarterly conference of the "Rockville Circuit, M. E. Church, Febr. 14, 1885. (Misc. Rec. I, 283).

No church was built by the Methodists in Ashton. (C. F. Beusheusen, Febr. 15, 1951).

The quarterly conference of a Methodist Church at Oak Creek, Sherman County, Nebraska, was held May 24, 1886, by the Rev. Joseph Gray, pastor of the Loup City M. E. Church. Adelbert Wilson, Jr., John Kernan, Warren Post, Isaac W. Barnes, and Martin J. Brewer are named as participants. (Misc. Rec. I, 599).

3. Ashton Churches

Ashton Presbyterian Church

Ashton Presbyterian Church was organized March 30, 1890, by the Rev. Thomas Sexton, Superintendent-of-Missions without charge. F. J. Taylor was elected clerk; Wm. Jeffrey, Wm. L. Wilson, John P. Taylor, and Theo. Ojendyk, trustees. (Misc. Rec. II, 98). The Lincoln Land Company deeded to the trustees Lot 11, Bl. 6, on Aug. 19, 1890. (Deed Rec. 10, 539). General Assembly Minutes for 1890 shows 11 members; in 1899, Ashton and Farwell were served by Pastor Louis E. Humphrey in 1905, by the Rev. Longstaff; in 1941, Ashton's Sunday School had 40 enrolled. Farwell's 41. (Byrdee Needham, May 11, 1951).

The Church Erection Fund of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church granted \$600.00 on August, 1890, to Wm. Jeffrey, president, and J. G. Hall and H. Smelser, board of trustees of the Ashton Presbyterian Church. Wm., T. Owens of Loup City built the church, which received a handsome communion set of gold and silver from a New Yorker in 1891. (Times, Febr. 20, 1891).

On March 4, 1897, the church received another grant of \$200.00, to J. P. Taylor, president. The June cyclone of 1896 had damaged the building to a considerable extent. This church was served by the Presbyterian pastor of Farwell, and attended by Protestants of all denominations, except Lutherans. The E. G. and Frank Taylors, A. Conklings, John P. Taylors and Yost Blumers were active. When Taylors and Conklings left Ashton, the church sustained a loss.

In August, 1909, the Ashton Presbyterian Church voted to disband and dispose of their property, subject to the approval of the Presbytery of the Austin Church. The Rev. G. Longstaff had charge of the meeting. The church was sold to St. Mathew's Evangelical Congregation of Ashton for \$800.00 (This was the amount of the two loans received from the General Board of Church Erection of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church). The transfer was signed by the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Ashton on Febr. 5, 1910, T. D. Wilson, Mrs. Mamie Dunker (Mrs. William) and Herman Sperling. (T. D. Wilson at that time lived in California). (Deed Rec. 31, 307). It is said that the bell and communion set were donated to the Austin Presbyterian Church at the time, with Dr. N. L. Talbot arranging the transfer. (Minutes of General Assembly and Synods, Theological Seminary, Omaha, searched by Miss Byrdee Needham, May 1, 1951).

St. Francis Roman Catholic Church of Ashton

The first Polish Catholics in Sherman County, in 1878-79, attended services at Mt. Carmel, northeast of Ashton, located on the (aban-

doned) townsite of Choynice (in Howard County). Loup City Catholics drove twenty miles to this church.

Thomas Jamrog, a hardware dealer of Ashton, in 1899 called a meeting in Ashton's town hall. The result was the building of St. Francis, a large frame church, which was dedicated Nov. 14, 1899. (Times, Nov. 17, 1899). Early-day families instrumental in organizing the church were: Josphe Gorecki, Jacob Maciejewski, Anton Topolski, August Maschka, Frank Wojtasjewski, Frank Wardyn, Adam Frederick, Thomas Jamrog, Stanley Galzenski. (The Register, Sept. 5, 1937).

The parsonage was built in 1903. (Times, June 2, 1903). Work on a parish school and boarding home was completed in 1909, although crop failures made the securing of funds difficult. There was no parish school within fifteen miles. The two-story brick building was dedicated by the Rev. Paul Rhode, bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Six Felician Sisters with Sister Superior Mary Hedwig were appointed to teach and care for the day pupils and boarders, approximately 150 the first year.

The parish was organized in 1907, when the Right Reverend Bishop Scannell appointed as lay members Anton Sobieczyk and Ignatius Majewski. (Misc. Rec. VI, 220.)

Pastors of St. Francis have been: Father Radka, to 1906; Father Josphe Augustyn, appointed in Jan., 1906, transferred in January, 1907; Father Boleslaus Radka, appointed in 1907, remained until June, 1919; The Rev. Father Aloysius J. Jarzemski, appointed July 4, 1919 to the present. He was made a domestic prelate of His Holiness Pope Pius VII with the title Right Reverend Monsigneur, by Bishop Hinkeler of Grand Island on Dec. 8, 1949.

It is worthy of mention that throughout the years, Thomas Jamrog, who was organist for ten years prior to the coming of the sisters, and Josphe Piechota, each Sunday before High Mass, chanted the "Godzinski," the office of the Virgin Mary.

Old-timers recalled the amusing incident of Father Radka and his automobile. To make the trip between the two churches, Father Radka bought himself a "horseless carriage" with a running speed of about twenty-five miles per hour. It could not make the hills between Choynice and Ashton. So the boys from Choynice pushed the automobile half-way, and the boys from Ashton met him and pushed the rest of the way. (The Register, Sept. 5, 1937 courtesy of Michael Kamisnki).

Assistants to the Priests of St. Francis have been: Rev. Irenaeus Jarka, Rev. Anthony Wojciechowski, Rev. Josphe Kolaska, Rev. Francis Mlynatski. (Information courteously supplied by the Rev. A. Jarzemski, Sister M. Thodosia, April 10, 1949, secured by D. Anderstrom, Ashton).

St. Matthew's Evangelical Church of Ashton

St. Matthew's Evangelical Church of Ashton has been called the parent of St. Paul's at Loup City. Since there were many Germans in and near Ashton, it was natural that they effect an organization there.

Having held services in the Presbyterian Church at Ashton from time to time, the Evangelicals were able to purchase the building in August, 1909, recording the deed Febr. 5, 1910. Loup City pastors generally served the congregation, which varied greatly according to the Protestants in the community. Mrs. Albert Anderstrom tells of the amazement of the Rev. Deditius, last resident pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical at Loup City, when he learned that many who worked in the church, Sunday School, and Aid Society were not members of St. Matthew's. Since St. Paul's at Loup City has been without a pastor, St. Matthew's is also an unserved church.

4. Hazard Churches

Hazard Methodist

Various Protestant denominations held services in Hazard after its establishment by the railroad. Services had been held in rural schoolhouses; the Lutherans were strong in the southern part of Sherman County, and had church buildings.

At a quarterly meeting of the Sweetwater charge, Kearney district, held at Sweetwater, Nebr. Oct. 15, 1888, L. E. Snyder, J. R. Davidson, and L. W. Barnes were elected trustees of a Methodist Church at Hazard, Sherman County, Nebraska. (Misc. Rec. VI, 633). Leslie Stevens (M. E. pastor at Litchfield) presided, and W. R. Hodges was secretary.

The Litchfield Monitor, Jan. 30, 1896, mentioned a donation party for E. C. Fenton, pastor of the Litchfield M. E. Church. Danish Lutherans took the lead in building a church in 1904. It was rebuilt in 1925, with improvements in basement rooms. Under the leadership of Carl Peters and C. E. Byers, the Methodists assumed leadership of this church, which included all Protestant faiths represented except the German Lutheran. The M. E. pastor of Litchfield has Hazard as a part of the charge.

The Sunday School and Woman's Society of Christian Service of this church are active. The latter cleared \$450.00 at their annual bazaar and supper in 1951. (Information supplied by Hiyo Aden, Mrs. Charles Aden).

Hazard Lutheran Church

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America was organized in Hazard May 23, 1882. Members of the first church board were A. Nerwig, A. Olson, R. Reinertson, F. Spangburg, J. Benson, C. Pederson, H. Peterson, C. Newburg, M. Torgensen. Services were held in the homes of members, whenever a pastor came.

A sod church was built in 1894. It was replaced in 1903 by a frame church, 26x40, built on two acres in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 29-13-15, south-east of Hazard, deeded by Frederic Rasmussen. To build the \$1000.00 church, a loan of \$400.00 was secured from the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. (Deed Rec. 23, 299; Mort. Rec. 31, 97). It was signed by Tobias E. Nelson, Jackson E. Johnson, and Abraham Reinertson. In 1907 a parsonage 26x31 was built, also at a cost of

\$1000.00 The acquisition of Lots 7 & 8, Bl. 8, in Hazard, occurred March 11, 1907, though the deed was not recorded until July 22, 1915. (Deed Rec. 35, 208). The Litchfield Monitor mentioned "the formal reopening of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Hazard on Aug. 19, 1910".

The Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1901. Of the 25 members (1951) three charter members, Mrs. M. N. Nelson, Mrs. Toby Nelson, and Mrs. Mary Larson, are still active. There were 20 voting members in the congregation in 1951.

Pastors who served this congregation are: Rev. Holman, 1882; P. A. Hedwig, 1884; J. E. Toen, 1895; N. C. Garness, 1899; H. Gudmundson, 1903; George Hendrickson, 1905; H. Gudmundson, 1907; H. Langseth, 1917; J. M. Ericksen, 1925; P. Knudsen, 1928; N. J. Holm, 1938; J. D. Lindley, 1943; Tverberg, 1949; E. C. Eid, 1950-. (Dates are for the beginning of the pastorate).

Services were held in the Norwegian language until after World War I. (Mrs. Alfred Reinertson, Nov. 16, 1950).

St. Gabriel's Catholic Church of Hazard

(Courtesy of Mrs. Dan Cronin, Nov. 28, 1951)

St. Gabriel's Catholic Church of Hazard was begun in 1934 and completed in 1935. There was no resident priest, but because of the distance to a church, services held at Hazard would accommodate a number of the faith. The first priest to serve the congregation was Father Moser, who came from Pleasanton. Lots in Block 2 were secured from Myers Peterson and wife, Carrie Robb, Frances L. Vermagen and Hartwig L. Nelson on July 30, 1934. Lots 9, 10, 11, 12 in Block 7 were acquired by the church June 18, 1945. (Deed Rec. 43-444; 44-320, 322, 481).

Trustees at the time of building the church were Mike Cronin, John Jurkewicz, and Peter Kwiatkowski. At this time an Altar Society was formed. Present trustees of the 25 members are Ed Lorchick and Casimir Wardyn.

Pastors who have served the church, who reside at Pleasanton after Father Moser have been: Father Gorak, Father Shunaski, Father Hergarten and Father Warkjus.

5. Litchfield Churches

Presbyterian Church of Litchfield

On Oct. 3, 1886, the Presbyterian Church of Litchfield elected as trustees: Albert F. Bush, three years; Joseph Littlefield, two years, Fred Waters, one year; Rev. S. P. Dillon, clerk of the meeting. (Misc. Rec. I, 430).

The town of Litchfield, begun with the arrival of the railroad in 1886, had adherents of both Methodist and Presbyterian faith who wished to build a church. It was decided that each group would canvass the town to determine the amount available for building a church. The Presbyterians could secure the greater amount, so they planned the building of the church. (It was not owned by both groups,

as some have stated.) The Lincoln Land Company gave Lot 2, Bl. 7, for \$1.00 The Presbyterian Board of Church Extension took a mortgage in return for a loan. (Deed Rec. 6, 427). This loan, plus a donation of \$500.00 by D. H. Titus, plus the amount secured through a subscription list, made possible the erection of a building, dedicated in September, 1887 (Mrs. M. E. Plantz and Mrs. Alice Slote, Sept. 19, 1951; Mort. Rec. 11, 308).

The foundation was raised and an addition made to this building in July, 1910 (Monitor, July 8, 1910). In 1918 another loan was secured from the Presbyterian Board of Church Erection for a manse, payable at the rate of \$100.00 per year. (Mort. Rec. 51; 255; 57, 48).

Because the Methodist and Presbyterian pastors both served other appointments, and because the Methodists were unable to build a church until 1914, there was often an arrangement by which one denomination used the Presbyterian Church in the morning, and the other in the evening, or vice versa.

Without church records, this list of pastors has been made, in part from the information secured by Miss Byrdee Needham from the General Assembly Minutes in Omaha, in part from the newspapers. It cannot be entirely accurate.

1887—Litchfield, no pastor, 2 elders, 14 members

1888—S. P. Dillon pastor, also Ansley; 25 members

1889—Same; 25 members; Sunday School, 80

1892—Litchfield without pastor, 16 members of church

1893—Without pastor; 25 members; Sunday School, 60

1894—Pastor, Rev. Chas. S. Maimann; 25 members; Sunday School, 60

1895—Without pastor; 33 members; 80 in Sunday School; (Rev. L. E. Shoemaker was mentioned in the Monitor)

1896—Without pastor; same for 1897

1898—David L. Wilson, pastor; 45 members; 100 in Sunday School

1899—Vacant

1898—Rev. A. M. Sheppard; Rev. J. C. Ambrose, 1914; Rev. E. L. Humphrey, 1918; Rev. Robert Graham, 1921; Rev. J. C. Morgan, 1926; Rev. Curtis H. Winkle, 1929. The last resident pastor was in 1934.

By 1950 it was apparent that due to death and removal of members, disbanding was in order. The Rev. George Chapman of Shelton, District Moderator, presided. The church board at this time was Mrs. M. E. Plantz, Mrs. E. Slote, Mrs. A. G. Norling, Mrs. P. L. Saum, Miss Pearl Hennis. The building was sold to a resident who will build a home with the lumber. The bell was purchased by the Four-square Gospel of Ravenna; pews and piano were bought by the Gibbon Presbyterian Church, while the linoleum was given to the Litchfield Public Library. A vigorous Ladies Aid continues active, with all the usual benevolent projects supported.

A complete history of this church, written by Miss Eleanor Slote while a student at the Presbyterian College at Hastings, won a prize of \$75.00. Unfortunately, no duplicate copies were made, the college has been unable to locate the original, so that a fine history of the church is missing. (Mrs. Alice Slote, Sept. 15, 1951; Mrs. M. E. Plantz, *ibid.*).

Litchfield Methodist Church

Clear Creek, in southwestern Sherman County, had settlers in 1873. The Kearney District of the M. E. Church had been organized in 1873, with the Rev. A. C. White as superintendent. He was succeeded in 1876 by the Rev. T. B. Lemon, and in 1880 the West Nebraska Conference was created. In 1882 a Rev. Clark preached in the school-house near the Cedarville postoffice, also J. A. Stevens, who homesteaded one mile north of Litchfield. In 1885 the Rev. Wm. Eppler was active for a short time, followed by the Rev. W. R. Hodges, a homesteader, who preached in the sod home of Francis Lang, in the store of J. T. Campbell, and in a dance hall.

A Cedarville Church was organized in 1887 by T. B. Arkman of the Ord circuit. It included Pleasant Valley, Bentora, Lee Valley. Pleasant Valley, organized by W. T. Grundy in 1891, had six members.

Since the Litchfield Presbyterians had been able to build a church in 1887, they and the Methodists, often lacking a resident pastor, had union meetings for Sunday School and youth organizations, with preaching alternated between the two. Rev. Joseph Gray of Loup City, and S. L. Anderson preached in 1887. The Rev. Wm. H. Ogle served the Litchfield M. E. Church a few months in 1889, with the Rev. W. B. Storer finishing the year. A parsonage was built during the pastorate of the Rev. T. C. Balch in 1891. The Rev. J. Q. Helm served in 1892-93, and the Rev. Joseph Buckley in 1894. When the Rev. Helm's wife died at Loup City, the Rev. Buckley preached her funeral sermon.

Succeeding pastors were: 1895, L. W. Chandler; 1896-97, C. E. Fenton; 1898, M. H. Belion; 1899, H. H. Miles; 1900, J. G. Walker; 1901, H. L. Case; 1902, J. A. Stevens; 1903, E. W. McMillan (barn built and parsonage repaired); 1905, Rev. W. Horner (when church at Hazard was built); 1907, Alfred Chamberlain; 1908-09, Rev. L. B. Shellenberger; 1910, K. H. Clifton; 1911-13, J. G. Jeffers; 1914-15, W. T. Taylor.

In 1897 the Methodists had bought a store building which was used for a time as a place of worship. A lot was donated by Mr. Arthur Engleman, which led to incorporation. This meeting with the district superintendent represented by the Rev. E. L. Baker, was in charge of R. P. Hammons. (Misc. Rec. I, 546). Miss Alta Bent was secretary) W. C. Taylor, G. A. Engleman, P. Peter, Geo. Bent, T. Robinson, Mrs. Jennie Robinson. The church used the basement for a few years, until funds were secured for its completion. The Monitor says that the cornerstone laying took place July 25, 1909, when Dr. Shumate, district superintendent, delivered the sermon in the U. B. church, and the German Chorus was asked to sing. When the building was dedicated, Dec. 3, 1914, the Rev. Joseph Buckley, then of Clarks, Nebraska, preached. He had served the Litchfield Methodists twenty-one years before. (Monitor, Dec. 11, 1914). The church was said to have cost \$4000.00.

Continuing the list of pastors, most of whom have served Hazard as well as Litchfield:

1916-19, W. O. Troy; 1920-23, E. C. Kemble; 1924-25, E. V. Price; 1926-27, L. H. Lewis; 1928-30, H. H. Todd; 1931-34, A. W. Johnson; 1935-37, E. W. Price (Litchfield, Mason City, and Hazard); 1938, Jas. B. Payne; 1939-40, Miss Lois Payne, daugh-

ter of J. B. Payne; 1941, Albert E. Hering; 1942, R. H. Chenoweth (of Ravenna); 1943, C. E. Luscher (Loup City); 1944, Arthur Hurder; 1945, Mrs. Ruth Giffen; 1946, Robert L. Wendt; 1947, Alfred S. Wakefield; 1948-50, C. A. Busby; 1950, Lee Brigdon.

(Information from the Historical Society of the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, Nebraska Wesleyan University Library, Lincoln, Nebr., Mrs. Ethol Langdon Bishop, Librarian; also Church Treasurer and Mrs. George Engleman).

United Brethren in Christ of Litchfield

Adherents of the United Brethren Church were holding services in schoolhouses when at Cleoria a sod church was built in 1888. The Litchfield U. B.'s acquired ground for a church site in October, 1893 (Deed Rec. 15, 219), and for a parsonage, on Sept. 25, 1905. (Ibid. 27, 242).

The church was built and dedicated in 1893. Leader at this time was the Rev. Mr. Dean, a carpenter, who donated funds and did much of the work. Early members were Mrs. Alfred Dickerson, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Willson, Miss Amy Crawford, and Mrs. Howard Lang. (Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Lang, Dec. 4, 1951). S. Dean, A. A. Bechthold, E. V. Ferguson, A. J. Willson, E. E. Hottell, and Presiding Elder Kirk, trustees of the Litchfield Mission, Church of the United Brethren in Christ, met at Muddy Mills School March 11, 1895. (Misc. Rec. II, 334).

These names of pastors who served the Litchfield United Brethren Church, secured from files of the Monitor, are an incomplete list: Rev. L. E. Spaehr, who also farmed; Rev. J. A. Shoemaker, 1896; J. W. Cummings, 1902; Rev. H. A. Strohl, 1909-10, when Beulah Chapel was built; Rev. E. H. Wagner, preached his farewell sermon in 1919; Rev. W. G. Hamilton resigned April, 1920; Rev. E. H. Meyers, of Broken Bow, Oct. 1920.

Litchfield Methodists sometimes used the U. B. Church before they built. Mention is made of pastors preaching at Wiggle Creek, Beulah Chapel, Cleoria and various schoolhouses. Because of dwindling membership, the building of the United Brethren was sold to the Nazarene congregation of Litchfield May 2, 1926. S. C. Brink was president, and F. W. Brink was secretary of the U. B. organization at the time of the sale. (Mort. Rec. 60, 259).

Christian Church of Litchfield

Inspiration received while visiting a brother in Texas led Mrs. George Lang, upon returning to Litchfield, to contact the Christian minister in Ansley. The Rev. C. A. Adams with a singer held a series of meetings in the United Brethren Church, and later in a hall. If a dance was held, the service was postponed a night.

An organization was effected Dec. 31, 1895, with these charter members:

Mr. and Mrs. George Van, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Lang, Mrs. George Parker, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Engleman, Mrs. Nelson Powell, Mrs. Port Brundige, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brundage, Mrs. Carrie Ellis, Miss Della Chipps, Mrs. B. F. Hocker, Henry Harris, Mrs. Mary Stewart, Miss Inez Brown, Mrs. Angie Brown.

All of the members were baptized in Muddy Creek, where it was necessary to cut a path through the ice of the creek. Among those baptized were three elderly women, Mrs. Murphy, mother of Mrs. G. W. Lang, Mrs. Mary Kellum, Mrs. Harve Chapman.

Plans were at once made for building a church. At the time of its dedication, the final few hundred dollars lacking were secured. A parsonage was provided in May, 1918.

There are at present 160 enrolled in the Sunday School, and a corresponding number of church members. Three charter members are still active: Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Lang and Mrs. Wm Cornford.

Church records have been lost, so that only a few of the pastors can be named: Rev. Sumpter, 1909; Rev. E. A. Palmer, 1910; Rev. J. A. Bullock 1911; Rev. Geo. P. Bramel; Rev. L. C. Camp, 1920; Rev. Gail B. Dunning, 1941—present. (Mrs. Geo. Lang, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Lang).

Immanuel Lutheran Evangelical Church

Immanuel Lutheran Evangelical Church of Litchfield was organized Jan. 28, 1895, under the direction of the Rev. A. A. Scharmann. The services were held southwest of town from 1899 to 1905. Lots 1 and 2, Litchfield First Addition, the site of the church, were secured at a cost of \$82.50 on Oct. 25, 1906. (Deed Rec. 29, 625). Lots 1 & 2, Bl. 6, in the same addition were acquired Jan. 25, 1910, price, \$100.00 (Deed Rec. 29, 570). The Monitor (Oct. 23, 1908) states that Rev. Leinhardt held services twice monthly in the Presbyterian Church of Litchfield during that year.

When the church observed its 50th anniversary in the spring of 1945, these pastors were listed: (Times, March 8, 1945)

Rev. A. A. Schorman, 1895-96; Rev. Karl Farnhaber, 1897; Rev. E. G. Affeldt, 1897-1901; Rev. E. Herzberg, 1902-1906; Rev. E. Leinhardt, 1908-09; Rev. H. C. Laufer, 1910-1912; Rev. Wm. Petersen, 1913-1919; merged with Trinity Lutheran Church of Hazard, Pastor R. T. Spitz served 1919-1924; Rev. G. Haack, 1924-25; Rev. Henry Dahnke, 1936; Rev. Joerdenning, Hazard, 1937; Rev. Elmhauser, 1941-45; none in Hazard and Litchfield, served by Rev. G. O. Kebschull, 1946; Rev. O. W. Jungel, 1946 to present.

Mr. Will Kabiser states that when the Emanuel Lutheran Society southwest of Litchfield disbanded, a number of its members joined the Litchfield Church. (Will Kabiser, 11-6-1951).

Nazarene Church of Litchfield

Nazarenes held a revival service in Litchfield led by Mr. Arthur Hughes and others in 1945. They secured the use of the United Brethren Church of Litchfield, purchased in 1946. Price of the two lots, Bl. 3, lots 13 and 14, was \$800.00 for church and parsonage. Trustees who undertook the obligation were Fred G. Johnson, Katie Miller, Vivian Trook. (Mort. Rec. 60, 259; 62, 645; Deed Rec. 41, 176).

In 1951 the church had fifteen members. The church board is Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Hawley. There is also a flourishing Sunday School.

Pastors who have served the congregation are: Rev. Calhoun, Miss Fischer, Mrs. Whitehouse, Rev. Sprague, Rev. Wil-

liams, Rev. Bolke, Rev. Harold, Rev. Rogers, Rev. Whitehorn, Rev. Rock, Rev. Cortneer, Rev. Kinzler, Rev. Kizer, Rev. Droege, Rev. Miller, Rev. Dayton, Rev. Cunningham, Rev. Saxton (1951). (Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Johnson, Mr. George Johnson).

6. Rockville Churches

Rockville Community Church (Evangelical and Reformed)

Various denominations gave attention to religious work in Rockville in early years. "Rockville Circuit's" second quarterly conference, Febr. 14, 1885, was named when a Methodist group filed proceedings' records in the county clerk's office. (Misc. Rec. I, 288). The fact that Alonzo Mingus' name had appeared in connection with an Ashton group implies that Ashton and Rockville were perhaps on the same circuit.

The Times on May 3, 1888, stated: "Rockville has neither church nor Sunday School." This referred to regular services, since on March 8 the same newspaper reported that the Congregational minister from Ravenna had preached at Rockville.

In 1897 the General Assembly Minutes of the Presbyterian Church mentioned 10 members at Rockville, also a Sunday School. There was no Presbyterian pastor from 1897 to 1899, but in '99, 20 members and 104 in Sunday School were reported. (Notes taken by Miss Byrdee Needham, May 1, 1951). At one time, a Baptist minister from Dannebrog preached.

The Sunday School led to the building of the present Rockville Community Church. A Mr. Nordeen of St. Paul inquired about organizing a Sunday School late in September, 1920. A group from Austin, Mrs. Hartwell, Mrs. Throckmorton and two sons, came from Austin to help with singing at the meeting. Mrs. Bushousen was chosen superintendent, Mrs. Victor Sorensen assistant, and Miss Nina Rasmussen, secretary-treasurer. Thirty children and adults met for the first meeting held the last Sunday in September.

The first preaching service was held in Community Hall in connection with the Sunday School program on Dec. 26, 1920. Because of snow Frank Thomsen brought the Rev. Thos. A. Marshall from Ashton in a bobsled. Services were held on Easter, Mother's Day and Christmas thereafter.

The Rockville Community Church was officially organized March 7, 1923. The first church council was Hans Hehnke, S. E. Sorensem, E. Dewhus, and Jens Rasmussen. In Sept. 1925 the Rev. Marshall went to another charge. The Rev. Roberts of the Congregational Church at Ravenna conducted ten services.

The Rev. John G. Ruhl became pastor of the Loup City and Ashton Evangelical churches (St. Paul's and St. Mathew's) in 1927. His work, especially that with the young people, led to hope of building a church, but with the economic recession, and his removal to Iowa, this hope was deferred.

The Rev. John Burkle replaced Rev. Ruhl. He held services every two weeks in the Community Hall owned by Mr. John Hehnke.

On Nov. 19, 1934, the Rockville congregation voted to join the

Evangelical and Reformed Church, and also to build a church. The Rev. A. C. Ernst of Chamois, Missouri, was engaged as architectural adviser. Mrs. Hans Hehnke donated the plot of ground offered by her husband before his death, on the west side of Rockville. The church building committee, was composed of the church council, Chris Dethlefs, Arnold Hansen, Frovin Rasmussen, Soren Sorensen, and Carl Burkle; representatives of the Ladies Aid, Mrs. Christ Nielsen, Sunday School, Mrs. Victor Sorensen, and Young People's League, Elmer Rasmussen. Mrs. Bessie Treon, S. E. Sorensen, and Carl Hehnke assisted with the canvassing. Messers S. E. Sorensen, Victor Sorensen, and Frovin Rasmussen were the coordinating committee.

This action followed outstanding Sunday School work. Sunday School teachers from Loup City, Ashton, and Rockville had met the last Friday of each month for study. July 29, 1934, a joint all-day meeting had been held at Jake Zwink's grove on the river.

The corner-stone laying of the church took place June 24, 1935. The Rev. Ernst, with Hans Anderson, now of Boelus, and Frank Krakowski, carpenters, supervised the labor of volunteer workers. Dedication services occurred November 17, 1935, with sermons in the morning by the Rev. Ruhl; at 2:30 by the Rev. Thos. R. Marshall, who had organized the congregation; and by the Rev. L. M. Harwood, Presbyterian pastor from Loup City, for neighboring congregations, in the evening. Services were also held Monday and Tuesday evenings, Nov. 18 and 19, with Thanksgiving services Nov. 28, 1935. (Courtesy of Mrs. Victor Sorensen).

Meanwhile the Ladies Aid had arranged for the furnishings. Chairs and pulpit were secured from an Evangelical and Reformed Church in Lincoln, while the altar and pews came from a church in West Point. These had been renovated, to provide an attractive interior. When a minister could not come to preach, church services were under the direction of the Sunday School, one Sunday, Young People's League the next, then the Ladies Aid and church members themselves took the service. The Young People's League had been organized by the Rev. Ruhl in 1930. One Easter Sunday the Sunday School had an attendance of 127.

At present (1952) preaching services are held the first and third Sunday evenings of each month by the Rev. ~~Heaph~~ ^{H. Heik} of the Evangelical and Reformed Church at Ravenna.

St. Mary's of the Most Holy Rosary, Rockville

Following the purchase of lots in Bl. 5, Jaeschke's Addition, on April 17, 1909 (Deed Rec. 31, 180), St. Mary's was built in 1909 and dedicated Oct. 20. The organizing committee, Josph Roschynialski, Adam Gehring, and John Seabeck, had the assistance of David Seifert, Philip Moritz, Michael Wiczorek, August and Vincent Guzinski, Martin Slabuszewski, Andrew Szafrajda. The frame building, 40x92, with a seating capacity of 300, was built by Walter Lang under the direction and supervision of Joseph Roschynialski. Additional ground was purchased August 1, 1911 (D. R. 36, 497), where the rectory was built, also under the same supervision. St. Mary's was incorporated Febr.

20, 1919, with Aloysius Raszynski as priest and Victor Guzinski and John Chilewski laymen. (Misc. Rec. VII, 657).

The first priest who attended Rockville parish was Father Wolf of Grand Island, followed by Fr. A. Jarzowski, also of Grand Island, and Fr. Jarka of Elba. The first resident priest was Father A. Raczynski, 1918. His successors have been:

Fr. Bogarczyk, 1919-21; Fr. Henry Kiel, 1922-23; Fr. G. Stakemeier, 1924-30. Others who attended St. Mary's, not in residence there, were: Fr. Joseph Muldoon, Grand Island, 1930-32; Fr. J. Hinzman, from Farwell, 1926-28; Fr. John Czajka, from Loup City and Elba, 1932-35; Fr. Hinzman, Farwell, 1935-March 25, 1946; Fr. A. C. Figlerski of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church (Paplin), Ashton, Nebraska, March 25, 1946 to the present.

Some of the original benefactors of St. Mary's were: David Seifert, donated both Side Altars; Andrew Szafrajda, Crystal Chandelier and Bell; Peter Roschynialski, Processional Cross; Mr. and Mrs. August Stobbe, Monstrance; Mrs. John Seabeck, contributed and collected for the Stations of the Cross.

Active organizations of the Church are St. Ann's Study Club, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, and the Altar Sodality. There are 75 member families. (Information courteously furnished by Fr. Anthony C. Figlerski, March 20, 1952). St. Mary's Cemetery lies a few blocks from the church.

7. Cemeteries of Sherman County

The first burial in Sherman County is usually said to have been that of George Soule, who died Nov. 13, 1873. Mr. Lamont L. Stephens states that this is wrong; that a "mover's" wagon stopped at his father's homestead during the summer of '73. A child of the couple died, and was buried nearby, in an unmarked grave.

Mr. Soule's burial was remarkable because of the effect upon a neighbor. William Young, who had come to Sherman County at the same time as the Soule's, and entered land in the same section, returned from a trip east to find the board roof of his sod home missing. Next morning, a son of Mr. Soule came to tell Mr. Young that his father had died shortly before. The only boards for a casket were those on Mr. Young's sod house, hence they had been taken. Land for a cemetery was later acquired, and Mr. Soule's body moved there. This cemetery is called Souleville, as was the postoffice. (Nebraska Record, Vol. I, No. 8, Sept. 1915).

Mr. Ira Daddow says that the Fletcher cemetery was begun in the same way. A migrating family camped on Fletcher land (8-14-14), where they buried one of their number. The Fletchers afterwards used it as a family burial plot, but from it, as from other rural cemeteries, many removals have been made.

A list of the larger cemeteries of Sherman County, was compiled by Don Badura, employed to list the soldier graves of the county. It was printed in the Times, May 26, 1949. In relisting them, additional information is given whenever available. This list does not include a number of smaller, private burial plots.

Balsora—Washington Township, 11-16-16:

Instituted by the Balsora Baptist Church, which bought land one and one half miles east of the first Balsora Church. (Miss Amanda Carlson, Apr. 24, 1949).

Mizner—Washington Township, 30-16-16 (Fairview Cemetery Association):

The Fairview Cemetery Association met at the home of F. N. Chapman, Febr. 10, 1905, with Nathan Chapman presiding. The object was to organize for the purpose of acquiring one acre of land in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 30-16-16, for use as a cemetery, to be fenced. Members were: Nathan Chapman, F. N. Chapman, Fort Sherman, Sherman Houdersheldt, M. M. Mizner, W. V. Pemberton, W. Landon, W. Minnie, C. C. Thornton, Ray Thrasher, C. E. Fowler. Capital stock, \$50.00; trustees, William Landon, Wm. Minnie, M. M. Mizner. (Misc. Rec. V, 381).

Lone Elm (Gray Cemetery)—Elm Township, 8-15-16:

Land for the cemetery was bought from L. Lowery, March 6, 1886, \$20.00. Incorporators were: C. Newell, H. E. Smith, A. F. Kuhn, D. H. Mitchener, H. A. Sparling (Sperling), Geo. E. Bennett, Melvin Lowery, Worthy Bishop, George E. Kunzer, A. C. Gates, G. F. Lupton, J. A. Niles, Eli Bettenger, Walter Smith, Esau Belden, sexton, March 5, 1888. (Misc. Rec. I, 583).

Cleoria—Elm Township, 12-15-16:

Located near the former Cleoria United Brethren Church, now gone. Three monuments, enclosed by an iron fence, at the top of the hill on the south side of Highway 92, are the only graves left that are marked.

Moon or Sunny Slope Cemetery—Webster Township, 10-15-15:

Used early. Association organized Dec. 18, 1898, at Dist. 14 school, recorded Jan. 17, 1899. Milo Gilbert, president; Edwin Angier, secretary. Lies back of the school, fenced, still used; well-known as a land-mark. Trustees, 1898, R. D. Hendrickson, Milo Gilbert, Minnie J. Gilbert. (Misc. Rec. III, 441).

Evergreen—Loup City Township Cemetery (Protestant), 1-15-15:

Loup City's first cemetery was located on Dead Horse Creek, east of town. Floods threatened the site, so a meeting was held at the Times office, Jan. 27, 1882. D. D. Grow, W. A. Wilson, and W. C. Lupton were chosen a committee to select grounds, with Peter Truelsen, chairman, and O. B. Willard, secretary.

June 9, 1883, ten acres were purchased from David French, Sr., northwest of Loup City; price, \$400.00 and a lot. \$80.00 was paid at once, notes given for remaining sum. Jacob Albers, living north of the spot, was appointed first sexton.

Removal of the dead buried east of Loup City was arranged when the county commissioners voted, Apr. 29, 1886, that they would pay half the expense, and the village of Loup City half. Now managed by a cemetery board appointed by the mayor. Mrs. Nettie Steen, secretary, and Mrs. Joseph Holmes both have detailed plans of the lots. Board members: Clark Reynolds, Glenn Fletcher, Miss Mina Schuman, Mrs. Milo Daily, Mrs. A. J. Farnham, Mrs. Steen, secretary.

St. Joseph's Cemetery (Catholic)—Loup City Township, 1-15-15:

This cemetery, across the road and slightly north of Evergreen cemetery, is situated in a triangular plot deeded by Frank Otlewski, to be used as a cemetery by the congregation of St. Joseph's Church. Catholic burials previously had been at Posen or Paplin.

Union Cemetery, Ashton (Protestant), Ashton Township, 34-15-15

July 16, 1884, Thomas and Jane Bly deeded the southeast corner of 34-15-13 to the Trustees of the M. E. Church of Mt. Hope, for church and cemetery purposes. (Misc. Rec. 1, 244).

Trustees, Horatio Smeser, Edward G. Taylor, A. N. Conkling, Geo. M. Tockey. Fred Wichman supervised the cemetery, March 7, 1891.

Fairview (Litchfield, Lower Clear Creek)—Harrison Township, 26, 27-14-16:

Incorporated Jan. 12, 1881, one acre from John W. Young. Richard Baker, James Murray, J. E. Murray, A. Armstrong, John W. Young, J. W. Heapy, A. Hislop, C. W. Benson, A. H. Mead, James R. Gray, A. R. Mead, J. J. Wannebaker, John W. Murray, H. E. Fuchs. Trustees, J. W. Heapy, James K. Gray, J. E. Murray, Richard Baker, A. Armstrong. (Misc. Rec. II, 1, 2).

Survey by County Surveyor L. F. Berzina, and plot, Jan. 5, 1937. (Deed Rec. 46, 661).

Immanuel Lutheran Evangelical Cemetery (Wilhelmshohe, Zeven, Glinzman Cemetery)—Rockville Township, 4-14-13:

Cemetery laid out in 1883, under management of the church. Names of some buried there, Knoepfel, Sperling, Jaeschke, Hansen, Wrehe, Heins. Those not members of the church are buried in plot adjacent to cemetery. (Church minutes, courtesy of P. F. A. Glinzman).

Hazard—Hazard Township Cemetery, 19-13-15:

Originally Danish Lutheran Cemetery, land from Mr. C. Petersen. Later acquired by Hazard Township, with the northeast part for burial of Catholics. Notable for the cedar trees; two truckloads, 400 trees, were set out by the CCC in 1933. (Mrs. A. Reinertson, Nov. 3, 1951; Hiyo Aden, Nov. 9, 1951).

Norwegian Trinity Lutheran Evangelical Cemetery—Hazard Township, SU, 14-13-15:

Land acquired June 11, 1890, when 4 and 2/3 acres was deeded for a church and burying ground. Deed Rec. 13, 314). The church is being dismantled, but the burying grounds are maintained).

Horak (Bohemian) Cemetery—Bristol, 28-13-14:

Fenced and well-cared for; notable because graves lie north and south. Known to have been established before 1886. Difficult to secure information. (G. T. Snyder, 12-7-1951). Cemetery Deed, bought one acre of Chas. Gehrke and wife, Aug. 23, 1889 (28-13-15); filed Dec. 16, 1889.

Hayestown (Stine) Cemetery—Bristol Township, 22-13-13:

Bought from Fred Stine for \$30.00, Dec. 26, 1887. President, Julius Buss; vice president, Fred Stein (sic); treasurer, Matthias Zeller; directors, A. Treon, J. Hansen, G. Pritschau, R. Schnabel, John Hetzel, R. Schmaljohn, H. Reasland, Jacob Stein, G. Gruth. (Misc. Rec. II, 567). (Deed Rec. 10, 295; a parcel of land 18 rods square in the southwest 1/2 of SW 1/4 28-13-13, filed Dec. 16, 1889).

Souleville Cemetery (Rockville)—Rockville Township, 24-13-13:

(Mentioned in Young Patent, March 13, 1881). Deed Book 41, 10, E. B. Rorning, county surveyor surveys.) Association officers, 1924, Joe Young, president; Fred Teichmeier, secretary. Given \$1,000 by F. E. Bax of Boelus recently. (Times, May 2, 1952).

Fletcher—Clay Township, 8-14-14:

A private cemetery, from which most of the burials have now been removed. (Mrs. Blanche Fletcher Petersen, May 24, 1951).

Austin—Loup City Township, 14-14-14:

G. M. Raymond, at the request of Norman B. Thompson, surveyed and staked the Austin Cemetery, one and 31/100 acres, Nov. 1886.

Articles of incorporation of Austin Cemetery Association, meeting at Austin school house; capital, \$500.00; shares, \$5.00. O. S. Thompson, N. B. Thompson, J. S. Needham, Mrs. H. Vandegrift, John Vandegrift, Abel Gates, Daniel Carpenter, W. H. Hayes, A. M. Gust, Austin Butts, W. Carruth, Fritz Kornrumpf, Esau Belden, C. W. Wells, J. B. Nagelvoort. Directors, W. G. Hayes, A. J. Wilson, O. S. Brown, Abel Gates, John Vandegrift, Esau Belden, sexton. (Misc., Rec. I, 445, 446).

Verdurette—Clay Township, 19-14-14:

Site selected by J. M. Snyder. First burial that of a transient who lived with Mr. Snyder; marker is stone quarried by Mr. Snyder in the hills nearby.

Chas. M. Snyder, son of J. M. Snyder, gave the land and paid for the survey. Directors, Chas. M. Snyder, Fred T. Ingersoll, John D. Parle, Samuel Daddow, Wilhelms S. Jendricke. (Misc. Rec. II, 386, Aug. 6, 1893; M. R. V., 62, Jan. 15, 1902; F. G. Snyder).

St. Mary's of the Holy Rosary—Rockville Township, 8-13-13:

This cemetery lies within the limits of the village of Rockville, a few blocks from the church.

St. Francis Cemetery (Ashton)—Ashton Township, 27-15-13:

Land acquired from Aug. Jaeschke by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Scannell of Omaha, on Jan. 22, 1901; tract 17x18 rods, south of the standpipe, on a hill. (Deed Rec. 20, 259).

CHAPTER VII

FROM RANCHING TO DIVERSIFIED FARMING

1. Ranches

When Sherman County was organized, the ranch idea was prevalent among the settlers. W. H. Stephens and wife returned to Iowa in the spring of 1873, after the first winter in the county, to invest in pure-bred cattle, with ranching in mind. However, by the time they returned, settlers had taken so much adjoining land, that the ranch idea was abandoned. (L. L. Stephens, Aug. 9, 1951). William Benschoter, of Delaware County, Iowa, induced by his brother Martin W., one of the county organizers, drove overland a herd of over 100 cattle. At the Missouri River cattle, horses and wagons were sent across by steamboat. For the Platte River crossing, Indians were hired to wade through with the cattle, treading water with a calf under each arm. A pure-bred bull, shipped by rail to Grand Island, became sick and died in the vicinity of Boelus. It was thought that drinking from an alkali pool caused the animal's death. (Nebraska Record, April, 1915). A. E. Charlton and wife, following their marriage in Iowa, brought back cattle. Mrs. Charlton drove the team and buggy, while Mr. Charlton herded the animals riding a horse. (Miss Ruby D. Charlton, letter, April 7, 1950).

Sheep ranching was another early hope. Mrs. Jessie Baillie Fisher recalled that uncles urged her father to come to Sherman County,

because of his family of children, who could herd. On the homestead, southwest of Loup City, she remembers going through tall grass to the top of a hill several times a day, to look after the sheep. There is reference in 1882 to McGee's 5000 head of sheep on the south county line. Tracy's from New York had sheep on their ranch northwest of Loup City. These citizens advertised livestock in 1884: (E & K Atlas, 1885)

W. H. Conger, Merino Sheep and Polled Angus Cattle

W. A. Wilson, Graded Durham and Polled Angus Cattle,
Thoroughbred Poland China and Berkshire Hogs

J. W. Smith, Graded Cattle, Norman and Morgan Horses,
Berkshire Hogs

South of Loup City to the county line, were holdings of such extent that by 1884 they were known as ranches. Most extensive was Barker Estate ranch, sometimes referred to as the Bickford ranch, since Arthur Bickford was the agent. Stephen Nutter and Noah Roberts, of Carroll County, and Hiram Barker of Stafford County, New Hampshire, began land purchases in 1880, continuing until 1884. On Sept. 22, 1880, the three purchased 3,839.52 acres in Sections 1, 3, 9, 11, 15, and 17, in T 14, R 15, from the C, B & Q railroad, for which \$3,740.40 was paid. This was probably the purchase referred to later as the 87½c per acre purchase. Much more in scattered parcels was acquired, to fill in between the railroad sections. (Deed Rec. 1, 460; 2, 7; 3, 261, 304, 396; 4, 307-309; 5, 326, 473, 543, 623, 631; 7, 267).

The first two of the investors sold out shortly to Barker. An example is the purchase, Jan. 10, 1880, from J. L. Hawk and wife, of the SW¼ of 12-15-15, for \$800.00. In February, this same quarter's two thirds interest was sold to Barker for \$1200.00. The Barker estate also acquired considerable town property, including Barker's subdivision in Loup City, also an interest in the mill and creamery. (Times, passim).

Mr. Barker made his will in 1882, but lived five years longer. When the will was filed in Sherman County, it attracted attention because of restrictions upon the heirs. The Sherman County holdings, said to have been valued at \$20,000.00, continued to be managed as an estate until 1902. The first agent, Arthur Bickford and wife, lived in southwest Loup City. In May, 1887, because of the entry of the railroad, the Bickford office was moved by the Snyder boys. Some of the property holdings were sold in 1895, through C. W. Tapley and S. C. Barker of Farmington, N. H. W. H. Conger, agent of the holdings in the early nineties, was followed by J. W. Long.

Tenants often bought the land on which they lived, as did Hugh McFadden, known as the "sheep king". He and Mr. Conger each gave the name "Bickford" as a middle name to a son. Last of the Barker estate holdings in Sherman County were sold in 1902, with R. P. Starr acting as representative of the "estate". (Times, April 28, 1887; Deed Record, 28, 556; 29, 243, 299; Mrs. Nettie Conger Steen, July 1, 1951).

Four miles south of the Barker ranch was the Snyder ranch. J. M. Snyder of Wheaton, Ill., on Aug. 10, 1878, entered as a home-

stead the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 24-14-15, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ as a tree claim. He also purchased a quarter section of railroad land in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 19-14-14. His son, Chas. M. Snyder, homesteaded the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 30-14-14, and later acquired the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 23-14-15.

With these holdings J. M. Snyder and his son Charles operated as a partnership, also leasing nearby land and using free range of which there was a considerable amount at one time. The herd law required that a herder be with the cattle. A huge frame barn built in 1885 is still standing. Cattle were turned out to pasture in the morning, and brought home at night, having ranged toward the river during the day. The wonderful stand of native grass which gave rise to the name Verdurette made splendid grazing land.

There were two sets of improvements on the Snyder ranch, 150 head of cattle and 20 head of horses. At first straw sheds were used, but later they were built of timber. The postoffice made the ranch a stopping place for mail and stage. Weddings occurred there, since J. M. Snyder was a minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. J. M. Snyder established Sunday Schools and church organizations in Custer, Buffalo, and Hall Counties. Interested in politics, he served as chaplain of the Nebraska Senate in 1893, and was in contact with political leaders. He set out an apple orchard, and wrote long communications to the county newspapers on horticulture. His son, Charles M. Snyder, took over the management of the Snyder ranch in 1897. Mr. Chas. M. Snyder donated the land for Verdurette cemetery, and paid for its survey and plat, (as his father had paid for the grading of a long hill on the road south to Kearney). Charles M. Snyder's son, F. Gordon, is the present operator of the early-day Snyder ranch. (F. G. Snyder, Apr. 10, 1951).

South of the Snyder ranch was the Fuller ranch. Francis W. Fuller and his wife, of Galesburg, Illinois, bought first the west half of 7-13-14, and later the remainder of the section. They added to the large house on the place, so that another family lived under the same roof. The son, Fred, a graduate of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, engaged in the raising of seed wheat. Section 1-13-14 was added. In 1889, Mr. Francis W. Fuller represented Sherman County in the Nebraska State legislature.

Mrs. W. S. Steen (Nettie Conger) taught Dist. No. 48, the Fuller school, in 1899, and boarded with the Fuller's. She recalls them as people of refinement and education. Since Mrs. Fuller was postmistress of the Paris postoffice from June, 1887 to May 1889, the office was in the Fuller kitchen. Mr. Fuller and Mr. W. H. Conger were personal and political friends.

Between the Snyder and Fuller ranches was the Howells ranch, owned by Thomas Howells of Woodhull, Henry County, Illinois. The same C. H. Mathews, who had first owned the Fuller ranch (land bought from the B&M), had acquired the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 32-14-14, and all of Section 31. He sold the holdings to P. S. Post and wife who sold them to Howells. The northeast quarter of section 33-14-14, and the remainder of section 32 was also acquired. For the first 800 acres \$1500.00 was paid. Joseph Chilson, a tenant, bought the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 32-

14-14, in 1884. In 1887, the Times editor referred to "Col. Chilson of Verdurette, operator of 2000 acres." (Deed Rec. 1, 390, 621. F. G. Snyder, April 10, 1951).

In northeast Sherman County, the holdings of Manchesters and Van Horns, and of Pat Braden, caused them to be called ranches. Large barns are still standing, and the very appearance of the hills in that area suggests ranching. Similarly, the Gowin holdings in western Sherman County, gave rise to the term, Gowin ranch. Some farming was done with cattle raising, and the holdings in time were fenced.

2. Farming and Livestock

Growing population, plus the coming of the railroads, increased livestock holding in Sherman County. Fencing became more common, so that herding was not the all-day chore it had once been.

J. R. Baker announced in the St. Paul Press (April 21, 1881) that he would keep herds at Kelso (in Howard County). Rates were:

less than 20 head, \$1.00 per season

20 head or more, 80c for cattle

horses, less than 20 head, \$2.00 per season

more than 20 head, \$1.50 per season

Stock salted once a week; 320 acres fenced, with a creek running through it.

Alfred Flint, pioneer sheep raiser near Litchfield, had an auction of 1600 head of sheep in 1887. (Times, April 28). Littlefield of Litchfield handled 2700 head of sheep, while Linton and Lehrman shipped in 250 head of brood mares. In 1891 A. T. Nichols of Litchfield shipped out a carload of cattle, while Alfred Flint shipped out "several". (Monitor, *passim*)

Livestock holdings declined during the drouth of the nineties, but with returning rainfall, increased. Benschoter, in his "Book of Facts" (1897), told of the farming and stock-raising of "representative citizens":

John Vandegrift in 1896 sold two carloads of hogs, twenty head of cattle, 800 bu. of wheat; is now feeding 45 head of cattle, 150 head of hogs; has 25 head of horses; last year raised 800 bu. of wheat and 2500 bu. of corn—has 320 acres, 200 under cultivation, 80 acres of fine blue grass pasture.

W. O. Brown, 110 head of hogs, 27 head of cattle, 18 head of horses; 281 acres of land, 70 acres pasture.

E. G. Paige; last year raised 4,000 bu. of grain; has 110 acres of corn, 220 acres of small grain, is feeding 130 head of hogs; 320 acres, 30 acres in pasture.

Frank Otlewski; 240 acres, feeding 42 head of cattle and 60 head of horses.

George Truelsen; 700 acres, 190 acres under cultivation, 240 pasture, 110 meadow, 6 acres of alfalfa from which he cut ten tons last year (1906); feeding 85 head of cattle and 125 head of hogs.

Carsten Truelsen; 800 acres, 300 under the irrigation ditch; sold \$3400.00 worth of livestock in 1896; feeding 80 head of cattle and 140 head of hogs; three acres in orchard.

At the turn of the century Sherman County was called a "mecca" for horse-buyers. A Mr. Betts, horse buyer from Omaha, with the help of Steve Grey, purchased a carload of horses in and around Loup

City. Twenty-two head cost \$2050.00, as good as could be found. (Times, March 6, 1902). The Litchfield Monitor (March 11, 1897) reported that Titus and Terhune had shipped a carload of horses to Princeton, New Jersey, receiving \$71.00 per head. South of Loup City, W. O. Brown and his neighbor, Will Hawk, sold one or two teams of horses each year, at a fine price, but they had given them the "best of care", so they earned the big profit which came from raising the colts. (C. C. Ownes, March 2, 1952).

George Dinsdale and Sons, of Palmer, began operations in Sherman County in 1901. Here they had 2800 acres in pasture and 500 acres in farm land, caring for 1120 head on the 3300 acres. During the winter of 1908 they fed 440 head of Grade Shorthorns, which were shipped July 6, 1909, with 130 head from Palmer, to Chicago. They averaged 1505 pounds at Chicago, and sold for 7c a pound. At that time this was the highest price ever paid for so large a bunch of cattle from one shipper. (Robert Dinsdale, March 7, 1952).

In 1907 the highgrade stock of Fletcher and Zink was mentioned. Names of organizers of the Sherman County Grain, Lumber, Coal and Livestock Association in 1906 list some of the stock-raisers: C. M. Snyder, Chris Zwink, W. H. Hughes, James McBeth, R. D. Hendrickson, John J. Zink, John Fisher. In 1909 Fritz Bichel shipped 2 cars of cattle to Chicago. The feed yards of Slote and Chipps at Litchfield were filled.

Seventeen wagon loads of hogs were brought from Valley County to Loup City, in May, 1907. E. A. Fowler (5-30-1951) recalled that in 1904 he had four carloads of hogs on the market. A. D. Jones, who located at Litchfield in 1913, has exhibited Hampshire hogs and Red Polled cattle at county and state fairs, showing champions in the Hampshire male hog class. (Who's Who in Nebraska).

Troy Hale built his big "jack barn" as he called it, on the north side of Bl. 13, opposite the Catholic Church. There was a high board fence around the west half of that block. March 6, 1912 a jack and jenny sale netted him \$10,000.00. The highest priced jack brought \$700.00; one of the Shetland ponies sold for \$90.00. The big barn continued to be used for sales until it was razed in 1942.

The Sherman County Pure Livestock Breeders' Association in April, 1911, listed these members:

H. J. Johansen, B. H. Lorentz, Henry Bichel, L. Larsen, Ed Haedeler, Milo A. Gilbert, Ed Oltman, Fritz Bichel, Ed. W. Zakrzewski, C. L. Knoepfel, Henry Obermiller, J. F. Peters, Ed Obermiller, C. H. Kettle, C. V. Norstedt, D. L. Jacoby, James McBeth, John Howe, Johnson Brothers.

The same year, the Farmers' Grain, Coal and Livestock Association (officers W. H. Hughes, president) A. E. Charlton, vice-pres., Lincoln White, secretary; C. W. Burt, treasurer) sold their elevator at a loss. (Times, March 2, 1911). A. D. Jones of Litchfield in 1919 was a prominent Hampshire hog grower. At this time, Fritz Bichel, whose herd of fine Hereford cattle from the stock of Mousel Brothers of Cambridge, was the largest cattle raiser in Sherman County. It is considered that he did more than any other individual in Sherman

County for pure-bred cattle. When he died in 1941, his cattle ranch was the largest in the county. Johansen and Gilbert held a Brood Sow Sale in 1921. (Times, Febr. 11, 1921; March 26, 1941.)

A Farmer's Union Shipping Association was formed in 1921. Officers were Fred Daddow, president; Alfred Aufrecht, secretary-treasurer, and Chris Zwink, general manager, with J. B. Zwink, Conrad Koch, G. B. Wilkie, D. L. Jacoby, and C. J. Norstedt directors.

C. L. Kettle had Chester White hogs and Holstein cattle in 1925; Milo Gilbert sold 35 head of pure-bred Poland China hogs that year. In 1926 108 cars of livestock were shipped from Loup City, while corn was shipped in, due to the dry summer. In 1933, Fritz Bichel had another of his Hereford Dispersal Sales. That year the Sherman National Farm Loan Association was formed, with Charles Schwaderer president, L. N. Bly, vice-president, and John R. Long secretary-treasurer. In March, 1944, the Loup City Co-op Association was liquidated, with no liabilities.

Since the drouth of the '30's, with the Pasture-Forage-Livestock emphasis by the federal government, the trend is toward growing pasture and grazing cattle. Fencing has become universal.

In 1877, with a population of 530, Sherman County reported:

3926 acres under cultivation; 25,074 bu. of wheat; 20,505 bu. corn; 252 horses, 33 mules; 972 cattle; 841 sheep; 459 swine lands, \$1.25-\$5.00 per acre, wild \$4.00-\$12.00 improved. (Burch, L. D., Nebraska As It Is, Summary,—Chi. Comm. Advertiser, Chicago, Ills, 1878).

In 1920, with a population of 8,277 there were on farms in Sherman County:

10,758 horses; 757 mules; 1,966 colts; mule colts, 329; 44,809 cattle; 17,595 hogs; 12, 317 sheep 132, 416 poultry. (U. S. Census Report, 1920).

Percentage of tenants is high, 78 per cent in 1942, according to AAA records. Absentee owners generally sell their share of crops on the market, while the tenant keeps only enough livestock to utilize his share of the crop. There are about 45 shelterbelts in the county, some in poor condition. Windbreaks are common on farms, but are generally too small. Native timber dropped from 6,813 acres in 1929, to 1,938 in 1938. With the loss of timber claim plantings in the dry '30's, Sherman County needs a revival of tree-planting.

3. Poultry

Poultry raising in Sherman County has become an enterprise of great economic value, as the reports of both the Fairmont and the Co-op Creameries show. Chickens have usually been the source of cash income for the farmer's wife, although in pioneer days the returns were small. Because of poor methods of transportation, one clerk recalled that he expected one-third of the eggs brought in to be broken. In the nineties, farmer's wives went from house to house, offering a dressed chicken at 25 cents. With the improvement in economic conditions, and the attention paid to pure-bred stock, returns increased.

One of the outstanding poultry raisers of Sherman County in 1900

was Mrs. A. H. Hansel, who specialized in Rose Comb Brown Leghorns, Partridge Cochins, Cornish Indian Game, and White Holland Turkeys (Northwestern, Febr. 28, 1901). Mention was made of the three incubators. Mrs. Hansel (Minnie Wall) also wrote a column for a poultry magazine published at Ansley.

In December, 1902, Mrs. Hansel shipped a pen of half a dozen hens to the ~~Pametaluma~~ ^{Petaluma} Egg Producing Company of California, who entered them in an egg-laying contest in Sidney, Australia. Five more pens of her stock were sent to Australia, with one pen bringing a return of \$147.00. (NW, Jan. 1, 1904). One pen of the Brown Leghorns had taken the lead the first month, and in May still headed a list of 70 pens. They won first, which prompted Mrs. Hansel's step-father, Judge Aaron Wall, to loose his oratorical ability in praise of the "glorious Nebraska hen".

Later fanciers were R. L. Arthur with Barred Rocks and White Brahmas and I. L. Conger with Mottled Anconas. The incubator was a great impetus to poultry and egg production, and still later custom hatching added to the industry. George Pointer in 1932 made the Loup City Hatchery an outstanding business (Times, June 17, 1932).

4. Bees

Some wild bee hives were found in early years. Gradually, a few hives were acquired. The 1910 census reported 14 hives, producing 210 pounds of honey; in 1934, there were 539 hives, producing 16,143 pounds of honey.

In 1947 Kenneth Cook, of Dwight, S. Dakota, began a "Bee Empire" in Sherman County, while his brother Frank located at Arcadia. The method of operation is to locate hives on the farms of those who have proper pasture, alfalfa, or clover available. Their building is north of the fairgrounds. Frovin Rasmussen of Rockville for many years has supplied local markets with honey. (Times, April 27, 1949).

5. Orchards and Truck Gardening

Given a good growing season, and moisture, Sherman County has proved that fruits and vegetables can be raised successfully. Williams, on the farm now owned by Eubanks, brought all sorts of cuttings from New York, and near Clear Creek had fair luck, especially with apples.

The Fletchers, Fullitons, J. M. Snyders, and C. W. Conhiser had excellent orchards. After the drouth of the early 1890's, and the hail storm of 1896, everyone was interested in planting. Friendly rivalry brought application to orchards and gardens; windmills were common, even in town.

In 1901, Frank Brewer had the southeast quarter of Block 14, east of the present Catholic ball park, planted to strawberries. He shipped 100 quarts a day during the growing season. Later he had nursery plantings on the block now occupied by the library and hospital. He

introduced Russian olive trees into Loup City. Truelsen in Logan Township had extensive cherry and apple orchards.

English-born C. H. E. Heath built a greenhouse in Loup City, heated by hot water pipes. (Times, July 19, 1888). In October, 1889, he had an exhibit at Floral Hall at the Fair Grounds (Ibid, Oct. 10, 1889). In Sept. 1890, it was damaged by hail. In April of that year he had shipped nine boxes of plants, 96 pounds, to Broken Bow. (Times, Apr. 10, 1890).

The Pritschaus, early settlers in southeast Sherman County, began the development of extensive truck gardens and orchards. There was some pump irrigation from the river, and later, two windmills with tanks supplied water. Plants, fruits and garden produce were sold in Ravenna and Grand Island for many years, with individual customers from Loup City, Ashton, Rockville, Boelus, Dannebrog, and Rockville also supplied. A rare sight (August 7, 1950), was the block-long rows of rhubarb, unusual varieties of snapdragons, and cherry trees loaded with fruit, but minus leaves, due to a blight. (Interview, Aug. 7).

In 1915, Werner Pritschau built a greenhouse for garden and flower plants, southwest of Loup City. Using the rather sandy soil which his father and uncles had utilized so successfully in Rockville Township, his truck gardening flourished. A hail storm in 1922 destroyed the greenhouse, and the owner moved to the Pacific coast. The Pritschaus have been referred to as "the Jules Sandoz" of central Nebraska, because of their "know-how" and determination in producing crops of fruits and vegetables.

When Austin had its irrigation ditch, strawberries and cabbages were produced extensively.

CHAPTER VIII

MILLS, CREAMERIES AND ELEVATORS

1. Mills

From the United States Census Report on Manufacturers, 1880:

Sherman County, 2 factories, value \$450.00 6 employees above 16 years of age, one below 16; \$250.00 paid in wages; \$250.00, value of materials; profit, \$1100.00.

Were the "factories" the brick plant at Loup City and the mill on Muddy Creek? The brick plant was in operation at the time of the building of the courthouse, and its rebuilding in 1877.

The first mill at Loup City was built in 1881. The Barker Estate is said to have furnished the money. A St. Paul Press reporter noted (May 12, 1881) that Barker's engineer was estimating the cost of the mill race, and on Dec. 15, 1881, that John Edmonson was running the mill, "producing number one corn(?) and flour."

Mr. Henry Jenner states that this first mill stood east of the later mill site, that it was run by a man named Hawk, and that it burned. (Interview, March 22, 1952). The Times, (Aug. 18, 1887), refers to W. T.

Daddow's plans for a six acre garden next spring, at the "old mill race".

The Loup City Canal Mills Company was organized May 26, 1884, by Daniel Sweeney, M. A. Theiss, and Samuel D. D. Emerson, "to operate a mill and feed livestock". (Misc. Rec. I, 245). Daniel Sweeney was to have complete charge, Theis and Emerson were to be the bookkeepers, while the Sherman County Banking Company was the depository.

A picture exists of the mill as it appeared in 1886, about the time of the June 4th barbecue celebrating the arrival of the Union Pacific railroad. A pair of oxen hitched to a wagon is shown. Tradition says that one of the oxen was slaughtered for meat for the barbecue. When the American Flouring Mill Company of New Jersey listed the assets of the Loup City Roller Mills, they included "one red ox, Bob". (Misc. Rec. II, 47, Oct. 2, 1889).

The sons of Daniel Sweeney, Chauncey, Clifford, and Gene, living in the Los Angeles area, explained to Mrs. Coral L. Conger, (Mrs. R.) that difficulty in diverting water from the river into the mill race made it necessary to dig three different races. This expense ruined their father financially. During the building of this first mill, in April, 1883, a wind storm almost blew it off its foundation, so that cables were used to anchor it.

One of a pair of oxen fell into the race, developed pneumonia, and died. When he was forced to give up the mill, in 1885, Mr. Sweeney farmed southwest of Litchfield for two years, then went east. In the picture extant may be seen Mr. Sweeney on his horse Fanny, an unknown customer with a team and wagon, and men who worked in the mill, Levi Lagoon, John Lofholm, Steve Neptune, and H. S. Conger. (Interview, Mrs. Coral L. Conger, June 22, 1952).

S. P. Mather is named as operator of the mill in 1887. Daniel Sweeney, miller when the company was organized, was reported negotiating for a miller. (Times, May 19, March 3, Febr. 16, 1888). Its capacity was stated to be 150 barrels each 24 hours. M. C. Fisher and John Hopper were next in charge. The mill was still open in January, 1889. (Times, Jan. 3).

When offered for sale, as part of the assets of the defunct Sherman County Banking Company, the United States marshall is said to have listed it at a value of \$20,000.00. (Ibid. Oct. 2, 1889). It was bought at sheriff's sale by H. C. Palmer, of Sterling, Colorado, for \$3200.00 (Ibid. July 24, 1891).

A committee was appointed in October, 1893, to investigate the possibilities of a steam flour mill and electric light plant. In the face of poor crops and business depression, encouragement was felt because Sherman County warrants were worth 100c on the dollar. However, when the committee contacted Arriens, the miller at Boelus, he asked a \$2,000.00 guarantee, while the committee had been able to raise only \$1,000.00 (Times, Oct. 6, Nov. 10, 1893, Jan. 5, 1894).

Previously, a site for a mill and water rights had been acquired when on July 28, 1883, James Shields and wife had sold 2 acres on the SW¼ of 18-14-15 to the Loup City Canal Company. Charles De-

Wolfe and wife on the same date had sold 40 feet for a mill race, while J. Woods Smith and wife sold water from a lake to the race which was to supply water for mill power. (Deed Rec. 3, pp. 124, 126, 142). There was reference to the Murphy survey of the canal, "not to be found in the county clerk's office". The three-story mill, with a capacity of 50 barrels per day, was apparently constructed at this time.

The Loup City Canal Company executed a lease June 16, 1886. Joel R. Scott was president, R. J. Nightingale secretary. (Misc. Rec. I, 462). The Loup City Roller Mills Company was incorporated Dec. 20, 1886, by Daniel D. I. Emerson, W. H. Morris, Milton A. Theiss, and E. E. Whaley. In October, 1888, the American Flouring Mill Company of New Jersey became a half owner of the Loup City Roller Mills Company. (Ibid. 629). Sweeney left Loup City for Illinois in 1887. The Times said that he "gave" Loup City its mill. (March 14, 1887).

Nineteen citizens, including Scott and R. J. Nightingale, of the Loup City Canal Company, signed a release in November, 1888. In February, 1889, it was announced that the Northwestern Banking Company of Seward, Nebraska, owned a half interest in the Loup City Roller Mills. (Misc. Rec. I, 633; II, p. 6). And on April 18, 1889, the State National Bank of Omaha filed an attachment against the Loup City Roller Mills Company and the American Flouring Mill Company. (Misc. Rec. II, 32).

The mill continued to operate, except when the race was frozen over. C. J. Tracy cleaned the race in 1891. Alfred Anderson was miller in 1895; he was succeeded by George E. Hotchkins of Arcadia, at times a minister and later operator of the St. Elmo Hotel. The mill, its capacity now 100 barrels, burned Oct. 3, 1899. There was talk of arson, but no charges were preferred. (Times, Sept. 27, 1895; Oct. 3, 1899).

In 1903, James Parshall of Butte examined the race, after which the Howards of Butte, Nebraska, financed by Boyd County citizens, built a new mill. Parshall was foreclosed in 1905. (Times, April 22, '05). The mill was bought in 1907 by E. G. Taylor. William F. Anderson, miller whose son was killed in a fall from the mill, was succeeded as miller by H. Nelson Smith of St. Paul, Nebraska. (Times, Sept. 27, 1907).

Mr. Taylor improved the mill by a 12x35x13 addition, to house a projected light plant. Power was secured from the race, an engine, and a storage battery for night service. Its capacity was increased.

The mill was moved in 1912 from its site near Dead Horse to a location on main street near the railroads and elevators. A firm from Hastings placed it on rollers to move it. A 32x60 power and engine house was built west of the mill. In 1916 Mr. Taylor separated the milling business from the electric light project. The mill was sold with Mr. Alvin Spelts, the operator until 1920, when it was sold to N. J. Peters. This mill burned just before Christmas, 1920. Mr. Spelts built a filling station (the present Smedra Filling Station) on the site, and Loup City's flouring mill became a memory. White Satin

Flour had enjoyed an enviable reputation and wide sale after 1907. (Interview, H. Nelson Smith, March 17, 1952; Ashton Herald, March 24, 1920; Times, passim).

The present two-story brick mill west of the Brown Grain Company office was built by W. A. Seifert in 1923. Because of a shortage of wheat for milling purposes (so far as local production supplied it), and with farmers installing their own grinders, the mill at present grinds only one day a week, on Saturday. P. J. Kowalsi, Purina dealer, and Floyd Lewandowski's also have facilities for grinding feed. (Mrs. W. A. Seifert, June 3, 1952).

The Muddy Mills mill, near the town of Litchfield, was built by J. R. Lang, who made a dam on the creek at the point where the road crossed it. In his interview with George L. Jackson, (Monitor, Aug. 2, 1935), Mr. Lang stated that in 1877 he deeded ten acres to Geo. Zuloff and John Morgan for the mill site; that this mill ground day and night, and that eventually there were ten mills on Muddy Creek and one near Westerville. (most of these were in Custer County). The Sherman County map of 1884 shows the mill on the Lang homestead on Muddy Creek, near the line separating Sherman and Custer Counties. (Sec. 18, 19, T. 14, R. 16). The Muddy Mills milling business, George A. Foster, Wm. Hughes and James A. Hughes, known as Foster, Hughes and Son, was incorporated May 11, 1885. (Misc. Rec. I, 300).

This mill was later moved to site near Litchfield, (Section 28), and operated by C. W. Benson in 1889. It was operated until after 1920, when the creek was partially filled.

The Sherman County map of 1884 also shows a grist mill on Beaver Creek near the Gowin ranch.

A vat sorghum mill was built by H. L. Lowery in the early '80's. In season it ran day and night. George Lowery tended the cooking and skimming. The owner took a share of each "run", reselling it in Kearney at 50c a gallon. An early day dessert was wild plums cooked with sorghum and eaten with cream. George W. Hayes also had a sorghum mill.

The Fletchers, south of Loup City, had a sorghum mill. The Litchfield Monitor reported (March 26, 1909) that A. L. Fletcher had sold everything but his cider mill and gas engine; that he was planning to start a vinegar and pickle factory.

After apple orchards were common, cider making was carried on, being sold at local grocery stores as cider or cider vinegar. In 1926, Matt Janulewicz, living in northwest Loup City, improvised a cider press by using a corn sheller. There may have been some waste, but apple juice was extracted.

Ashton is said to have had a grist mill before the town was located there. It was small, and did not operate long.

2. Creameries

Sherman County had a cheese factory operated on the farm of W. H. Stephens near Rockville in 1878. His son, L. L. Stephens, said

that his father's idea of ranching, plus the cattle he had bought in Iowa before the panic of 1873, found him with more milk cows than he could handle. His wife, in later years, sometimes reminded him of the time he went to sleep while milking a cow. This experience seems to have prompted him to build a building for cheese-making. The loft above was to be living quarters for the workers. In "Them Was the Days", by Mrs. Martha Ferguson McKeown, the experiences of Mrs. Sam Hawthorne, who had charge of this "factory" for one summer, are described.

A "Land Improvement, Stock Raising and Manufacturing Company" was incorporated July 27, 1875, by John W. Harkins, M. A. Hartley, William Baillie, G. P. Brown, and J. L. Hawk. (Misc. Rec. I, 16). There is no record of its operations.

The first creamery in Loup City is said to have been built by Davis and Ranksin, promoters from Chicago. A. C. Cobb was mentioned as manager in March, 1887. (Times, March 24). The formal opening was announced for Monday, April 27, 1887. On April 8, 1888, the St. Paul Press reported on the "Loup City Butter and Cheese Factory":

The main building, 26x36; a curing room 10x34; an 8x10 office attached. Outside is an icehouse, boiler and engine room, all well-built, an ornament to the city. (This plant stood near Dead Horse, on the SW corner of Bl. 31, four blocks west and two blocks south of the courthouse square.)

The milk is brought from farms in large cans; for butter making it is emptied into large vats, pumped into a cream separator making 8400 revolutions a minute, which separates the cream and milk; in half an hour the farmer has his skim milk home.

Everything is done by machinery, even to the washing of the cans, which is by steam and hot water. The churn holds 300 gallons of cream; the butter is worked by rollers. There are two milk vats each having hot and cold water pipes, for heating and cooling. There are 21 presses for large and 6 for small cheeses.

The factory started Monday Morning, April 4, with 90 gallons of milk. As a result farmers will purchase more cows. The stock was subscribed and paid for by Loup City. It is an enterprise of lasting benefit.

Articles of incorporation of the Loup City Dairy Association were filed Jan. 8, 1888. (Misc. Rec. I, 57). Incorporators of the \$50,000.00 enterprise were:

Peter Truelsen, Hugh McFadden, W. H. Lalk, C. J. Oden-dahl, E. S. Hayhurst, J. A. Angier, George Lee, A. C. Cobb, Robert Taylor, J. Phil. Jaeger.

This creamery burned Saturday, June 29, 1888. The loss was estimated at \$7200.00, with insurance of only \$1500.00. Sewell and Bowers announced that they would rebuild, at a cost of \$4500.00. (Times, July 5, 1888).

The Loup City Dairy Association on Sept. 24, 1888, leased the creamery for one year to H. M. Mathew. Hugh McFadden was president, N. B. Thompson treasurer, and H. M. Mathew secretary. There was a loan from the Barker Estate. (Misc. Rec. I, 620). On Nov. 15,

1888, a partnership certificate was filed, between H. M. Mathew and Henry Jenner, who were to deal in livestock and grain as well as manufacture butter and cheese. (Ibid. 632).

The products of the new creamery received 2 cents more per pound in Denver than the average. The B&M brought in an iced refrigerator car on Saturday, picked it up on Tuesday, after butter and cream were loaded. One week the creamery shipped 1794 pounds of butter, while C. W. Conhiser, local merchant, shipped 275 pounds. It was announced in September that the creamery would run ten months.

Mathew and Jenner bought cream at Arcadia; in May, 1891, at Sargent, in Custer County,. In June there were three cream routes at Ashton. In October, 1891, H. M. Mathew was elected vice-president of the Creamery, Buttermakers and Cheesemakers Association at Chicago. (Times, Oct. 9, 1891).

Bad luck overtook the business. Butter shipped to Denver did not arrive, and was traced to West Virginia. (This was attributed to local animosity). Such losses, along with the drouth and depression, caused the creamery to close in October, 1891. In November, Mathew and Jenner dissolved partnership. (Misc. Rec.) At this time farmers talked cooperative; A. Zink, John Vandegrift, John W. Zink, J. A. Angier, J. M. Snyder were interested.

The creamery was leased in 1892. P. C. Storey, who had become manager, died at the St. Elmo in August, 1892. Operations continued, closing for the winter months. In July, 1894, a Mr. Liggett was manager. His promise to issue payments each week, was commended especially in view of the crop failure. (Butter was 12c per pound in November, 1896). (Times, *passim*).

J. E. McCray of Sargent took charge of the Loup City Creamery in February, 1898. It was still owned by the Barker Estate. F. M. Henry was associated with Mr. McCray, residing at Ashton. When Mr. McCray died in November, 1899, Mr. Henry took his place.

At this time the Ravenna Creamery Company, headed by J. I. Clark of Ravenna, bought the interest of the Barker Estate and Mr. Henry. They added egg buying, and continued to operate until July 2, 1912, when the creamery was completely destroyed by fire. The loss exceeded \$12,000.00, including one complete carload of butter, to have been shipped the next day. Insurance was \$6,000.00. (Times,

The Ravenna Creamery now built east of the B&M station, where they could have a railroad spur for loading. The first building was of concrete, 43x80. J. A. Thompson became manager when Mr. Henry became county treasurer.

Expansion continued; in 1927 it was announced that the creamery was churning 3 tons of butter daily. A poultry, butter-milk drying, and egg-dressing plant was added in 1929; cheese-making in 1930. In 1945 its size was greatly enlarged, but buttermilk drying was eliminated. (Times,

Fairmont Foods purchased the Ravenna Creamery plant of Loup City in 1929. The plant now consists of the original building, containing the creamery and office; the poultry building, hatchery, and ware-

house. The plant covers approximately 28,000 square feet, housing the creamery, hatchery, feed, egg, and poultry dressing departments. It also handles and distributes ice cream, frozen fruit and vegetables and dehydrated products.

T. P. Steinkamp succeeded J. A. Thompson as manager in 1948. Heads of departments are:

Floyd Silver, hatchery foreman, 15 years; Eric Olsen, buttermaker, 26 years; Henry Thode, poultry and egg foreman, 10 years; office manager, Harry Klatt, 25 years. Olsen, buttermaker, 26 years; Henry Thode, poultry and egg foreman, 10 years; office manager, Harry Klatt, 25 years.

There are one ice cream truck, distributing ice cream and dairy products north of Loup City; 3 poultry trucks for hauling poultry purchased from produce dealers; 2 farm trucks to pick up produce direct from the farm; 1 panel truck for the hatchery; 1 pick-up for local use.

At the peak, there are 40 employees; this drops to 26 when poultry and egg production decline. The total volume of chickens and turkeys dressed in a calendar year, one million pounds; eggs, approximately 25,000 cases; baby chix, sold about 150,000. The yearly payroll is almost \$75,000.00.

This is the largest industrial plant in Loup City. (Data furnished by Management). (To be closed September, 1952).

The Loup City Cooperative Creamery Association opened April 12, 1930. The organization was promoted by the Nebraska Dairy Development Association. At present there are 178 stockholders whose membership embraces a large percentage of leading farmers and a number of business men. In addition to the purchase of cream and the manufacture of butter the company purchases eggs and poultry, and has feed for sale. Three trucks pick up cream in the territory.

The plant consists of the creamery proper, an attractive tile brick building, the warehouse and chicken house. The book value of the buildings, machinery, equipment, office fixtures and trucks is \$43,653.53.

The present board of directors: Louis A. Roy, John J. Dzingle, Henry Rademacher, Frank Damratowski, Wm. Mroczek, F. K. Janulewicz; Frank Zocholl. Employees are: Edmund Slominski, manager, John Smolik, Lyal Throckmorton, Ruth Obermiller (part time), Robert Czaplewski, James Maciejewski, Heron Crist, Clarence Woitaszewski. In 1951 there were 500 cream patrons; 465,000 pounds of butter were manufactured in 1951. (Courtesy of the management).

Ashton had a creamery constructed by the Beatrice Creamery in 1899. It stood on Block 14, O. T. This building burned. There were various cream buyers, who shipped to larger centers.

A Farmer's Cooperative Creamery Association was organized at Ashton April 23, 1925, at a meeting held at the Opera House. Directors were: S. S. Ignowski, Arch Harvey, J. J. Peters, G. H. B. Glinsman, J. A. Roschynialski, S. A. Lewandowski, S. J. Lewandowski. I. A. Maiefski became president; G. H. B. Glinsman, treasurer; and S. S. Polski, manager. Operations began Monday, July 20, when 500 pounds of butter was churned. August 7 it was reported that in two weeks five tons of butter had been shipped.

3. Electric Power

Electric power was first furnished to Loup City by the Loup City Mill and Light Company, whose incorporators, (April 15, 1905), were Elmer E. Boynton of Sycamore, Ill., and E. G. Barnum, H. A. Oelrichs, and Jonas I. Parshall of Butte, Nebraska. (Misc. Rec. V, 427). The flour mill, of which James Parshall was miller, had been rebuilt in 1903.

The first electric power generated at the mill race was used to light the mill itself and the nearby home of the miller, Mr. H. Nelson Smith. (Interview, H. N. Smith, March 17, 1952.) Loup City and the Loup City mill and light company entered into a 20-year agreement in January, 1912. In April, the mill had been moved uptown, and located by Mr. E. G. Taylor, who had become chief owner in 1907, near the B&M elevator.

The light plant was housed in a small cement block building east of the mill. The mill wheel at the race near the former site, two gas engines and a storage battery furnished power, Twenty-four hour service was announced in 1922. (Times, June 12, 1912; Febr. 1, 1922.)

In 1916 the office of the light plant was located one block south of the Frederick Hotel, its present location. A power line was built to Rockville in 1921; one to Litchfield in 1923.

The Loup City Mill and Light Company, in which Mr. Smith had had a half interest since 1920, sold to the Nebraska Electric Power Company, of which Mr. Smith was president in 1925-27. It was owned by Priester, Quail, and Cundy, Inc. of Iowa. Two new transmission lines were built from North Loup to Ericson in 1928; there was a new power plant and dam at Lake Ericson. At this time Mr. Smith was local manager. L. G. Tilton district manager. (Times, Oct., 1928).

Western Public Service acquired the holdings of the Nebraska Electric Power Company in July, 1929. (Times, June 7, July 12, Nov. 17, 1929). Mr. Smith at this time was district manager. In 1937 it was announced that Western Public Service was energized from the Sutherland Plant.

The Loup City plant was gradually enlarged. Western Public Service sold to Consumer Public Power Company in 1942. R. H. Cortner became manager at this time. (Times, Oct. 14, 1942).

Source of power is the Nebraska Public Power system, the Boelus and Ericson hydro-electric plants, located on the South Loup River in Howard County and on the Calamus River in Wheeler County.

There are 90 miles of power lines in Sherman County, to serve the towns.

Loup City: 762 customers, 2,205,210 KWH

Ashton: 157 customers, 362,538 KWH

Rockville: 84 customers, 135,818 KWH

Hazard and Litchfield: 1 customer, 400,000 KWH

The total amount of power sold is 3,903,366 Kilowatt Hours. The Loup Valley REA is furnished 800,000 KWH annually, while a Custer County REA 6 miles west of Loup City receives 400,000 KWH. R. H.

Cortner is manager at Loup City. Offices, with yards and storage, occupy nearly a quarter of a block. There are 12 employees at Loup City, with an annual pay roll of \$35,000.00, and annual tax payments in the neighborhood of \$2000.00 (Information furnished by R. H. Cortner, Loup City).

The Loup Valleys Rural Electric Membership Association was organized Nov. 30, 1945. First officers were: Will R. Foth, Ord; president; Merl B. Zangger secretary, and Al P. Radke, treasurer; Clifford Goff, Burwell, vice-president. In March, 1952, Mr. Foth is president; Carl Oliver, North Loup, vice-president; Clifford Goff, Burwell, secretary, and John Kokes, Jr., Ord, treasurer. Fay Carpenter and Harold Rademacher are Sherman County members of the board of directors.

Building of distribution lines to serve Sherman County, with the exception of the west side, was begun at the close of the war, but due to a shortage of materials, proceeded slowly. The county REA was energized in June, 1949, with a substation located on Hancock Hill. Louis Kaslon was the first of fifty farmer patrons to receive service. Branches were built along Dead Horse, Wiggle Creek, Schaupps, and Rockville (Times, June 9, 1949). The Loup Valleys Association has 217 miles of distribution lines in Sherman County, 588 consumers and 14 schoolhouses.

This REA is organized on the cooperative principle, borrowing 100 per cent of the construction cost from the REA at 2 per cent interest for 35 years.

Southwest Sherman County is served by the Custer County Public Power District, whose representative is Carl Fox of Litchfield. (Courtesy of W. P. Hollands, manager, Ord, Nebraska).

4. Elevators

The coming of the railroad was accompanied by the appearance of elevators. The one on the B&M at Loup City was built by a man named Higgins in 1887; the one on the U.P., smaller, was usually referred to as the Peaveler elevator. The Farmer's Union built a third elevator in 1908.

These railroad elevators were acquired by E. G. Taylor in 1907. He tore down the smaller of the two. The Farmers Elevator was sold in 1911. Today both are managed by the A. L. Brown Company. "Archie" Brown is a nephew of E. G. Taylor.

Ashton also had two elevators, Rockville one; Austin one, Schaupps Siding one; Hazard two, and Litchfield two. Due to trucking and more rapid shipment, elevators are less important in small centers. Today the Ashton Elevator is managed by the Ashton Lumber Company. Those at Austin and Schaupps have been torn down. The Rockville Elevator is managed by the Rockville Lumber Company.

CHAPTER IX

AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTERPRISES

1. Sherman County Fair

The first fair in Sherman County was held at the county seat in 1879, according to George Benschoter, (Book of Facts, p. 42):

a fine display of all kinds of crops was on exhibit and the farmers took great interest in it. A good program of sports and other amusements was the order of the day.

In 1880, the enterprising German settlement at Wilhelmshe, in eastern Sherman County, held a fair, "which was well-advertised, and attended by people from different parts of the county. A good delegation from the county-seat was present." (Ibid. p. 7.)

The Sherman County Agricultural Association was organized June 14, 1886, with 400 shares valued at \$50.00 each offered to the public. Incorporators were:

John M. Young, Peter Truelsen, C. J. Odendahl, J. Phil. Jaeger, J. E. Blackman, A. P. Culley, Aaron Wall, Geo. W. Hunter, M. A. Hartley, W. H. Lalk, David L. Fair, D. C. Grow, M. P. Ford, J. C. Edmonson, John Wall, O. B. Willard, E. E. Long, R. Taylor, T. S. Crabill, Fred Bacon, E. Kreichbaum. (Misc. Rec. I, 396.)

Second articles of incorporation were filed Nov. 5, 1887. J. C. Edmonson was president, with C. J. Odendahl, E. G. Kreichbaum, E. E. Long, J. P. Jaeger, C. L. Drake, W. H. Lalk, A. P. Culley, Aaron Wall, and O. B. Willard directors. (The articles were drawn before Willard's death, but filed Nov. 5, 1887). The sum of \$50.00 was in the treasury, secured by voluntary subscription. (Misc. Rec. I, 490).

Forty acres south of town, east of the O & R. V. right-of-way, was secured from Andrew Freiberg of Moline, Ill. Four promissory notes of \$164.99 each, bearing 8 per cent interest, were given. A mechanics lien covered the buildings. (Misc. Rec. II, 154). To hold the fair in 1891, twenty men advanced \$50.00. Sparks from the U. P. engine set a fire in May, 1888, but Engineer O'Bryan reversed the engine, and the crew put out the fire. A pile of lumber was the only loss; Floral Hall was unharmed. (Times, May 24, 1888).

There was a reorganization again in 1891, when the articles of incorporation were amended. Shares were \$25.00 each, with capitalization \$3000.00. Twenty-two citizens signed the petition, among them C. L. Drake, C. J. Odendahl, W. H. Simeson, A. P. Culley, Geo. E. Benschoter. (Misc. Rec. II, 69).

The fair held in 1895 was outstanding, although only three townships entered floats. Special features were Knutzen's merry-go-round from Ashton and a balloon ascension. An entertainment which especially captivated the youngsters was a reproduction of an Indian raid. As the afternoon U. P. freight came to a stop near the fairgrounds, a frontier kitchen was seen, mounted on a flatcar. As the housewife bent over the washboard, with the children playing nearby,

Indians mounted on ponies rode past. They were dispersed by the homesteader with his four-horse team, who appeared at the critical moment. So realistic was the setting that many a youngster passed a sleepless night, with the shadow of the engine as menacing as the whoops of the Indians. (Times, Sept. 27, 1895).

The "model" fair grounds of 1897 are described by Mr. Benschoter in his Book of Facts. (p. 69). The artificial lake had an island in the center. This water came from the irrigation ditch, providing eight feet of water for the lake, which was nearly half a mile in circumference. Stockholders and others who had planted trees near the lake were: C. J. and W. G. Odendahl, G. W. Hunter, Harry Jenner, Henry Wilson, T. L. Pilger, E. S. Hayhurst, W. R. Mellor, J. Phil. Jaeger, Jacob Albers, Christian Hauck, and C. H. French. Mr. Jenner had built a small sod house on the grounds. Mrs. G. W. Hunter had inscribed in the earth on the bank of the lake, the word, "Fair" in blue flag lilies. (The Sherman County Board of Supervisors had appropriated \$75.00 for trees to be set out around the lake. Times, April 23, 1896).

Officers in 1897 were: C. L. Drake, pres.; W. R. Mellor, secretary; J. Phil. Jaeger, treasurer; T. L. Pilger and J. M. Snyder, directors. In 1898 an amphytheater was built at the grounds, 24 feet long, 8 feet high. (Times, Aug. 19, 1898).

The county occasionally levied a tax for the support of the county fair, and at other times made an allowance, \$200.00 in 1894; \$175.00 in 1900; \$200.00 in 1901. No progress was made in reducing indebtedness. In 1909 the fair association sold its holdings in 19-14-15 to John Eggers, M. C. Mulick, president of the Sherman County Agricultural Association signing the deed. (Misc. Rec. II, 154).

Without grounds, the fair lapsed. Harvest Festivals at Jenner's Park in part replaced the fair. Mail Carrier Conger's Route 2 picnics on Labor Day (1913, 14, 15) provided entertainment. A plan to purchase new grounds developed in 1922, with E. A. Keeler raising \$2000.00 of the \$4000.00 needed it acquire 35 and 85-100 acres (S $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, 12-15-15), west of town, west of the U. P. "Y", with exception of the land south of the "Y". This land was owned by J. P. Leininger, Sr., and wife. The erection of buildings was begun; trees donated by A. B. Out-house were planted in 1925 and for several years thereafter. Again little progress was made toward completing payment for the land, so that reorganization was necessary in 1931. At that time 100 signers determined to acquire the site. Almost \$3000.00 had been paid; \$2500.00 was to be paid before Aug. 15, 1932, with interest at 8 per cent; the other \$2500.00 was due in 1925.

J. E. Roush was president; L. N. Bly 1st vice-president; C. L. Kettle, 2nd vice-president; Roy Plants, treasurer; C. F. Beusheusen, secretary. Directors for two years were: G. H. B. Glinsman, Ashton; Geo. Ritz, Arcadia; George Slote, Litchfield; Park Paige, Loup City. One year terms were filled by Wm. Rowe, Loup City; Fred Kozel, Ravenna; G. B. Wilkie, Loup City.

The county board of supervisors had furnished \$1000.00 in 1930; and made levies to provide \$4000.00 for 1932-33. There was no fair in

1934; a 4-H exhibit in 1937; no fair, 1943-45; and none in 1948, when the Diamond Jubilee celebration of July 4-5 was held. Flood lights had been installed in Sept., 1934, so that night football games are played within the race-track oval.

Before the auditorium was built, the Baptist Aid Society had had a log cabin built on the grounds, from trees secured in town and country. A yearly rental of \$15.00 was guaranteed by Mrs. A. E. Chase, president, and Mrs. Harry Shipley, secretary of the Baptist Ladies Aid. (contract with Mrs. A. E. Chase). It was removed by Milo E. Gilbert when the auditorium was built. Meals served here at fair time were an attraction to the concession holders as well as those attending the fair.

In 1938 lumber from the Ashton school building was purchased, and an auditorium built with federal aid labor. At the dedication, in Aug. 1939, Gov. R. V. Cochran complimented the community on its fine musical talent as well as its building. In 1941 the mattress project of the relief program was housed at the fair grounds. The sales pavilion was built in 1935; it has been leased from time to time; by E. A. Keeler and Frank Slattery; Keeler and Obermiller; the Loup City Auction Company; Ed John and H. Rosmariak; H. Obermiller. The V.F.W. has leased the pavilion for dances which it manages there.

Present buildings at the fair grounds consist of the Agricultural Hall, Art Hall, Grandstand, Poultry Barn, Stock Barn, Auditorium, Stock Barn, Sales Pavilion. Names of citizens who have served as officers in recent years are: W. Hawk, H. Treon, C. J. Domgard, O. S. Mason, H. Obermiller, Wm. Lewandowski, M. R. Beusheusen. C. J. Tracy devoted much time to promoting the fair in earlier years. Clark S. Reynolds is the present secretary of the fair association. (Secretary's Books, Sherman County Fair Association; none can be located for earlier years; newspapers supply some material).

2. Extension Work in Sherman County

To assist the District Agent in U. S. Government Extension Work the Board appoints: Adam Racke, Oak Creek; D. L. Jacoby, Logan; R. P. McCleary, Washington; J. Whitmore, Elm; F. A. Pinckney, Webster; H. J. Johansen, Loup City; Anton Washkowiak, Ashton; Wm. McDonald, Rockville; Jas. McBeth, Clay; George McKenzie, Harrison; Henry Diefenbaugh, Scott; Hiyo Aden, Hazard; Chas. Kremke, Bristol. (Sup. Rec. VI, 425, Apr. 16, 1918).

Sherman County was in a district whose headquarters were St. Paul (March 1, 1918, Times). D. G. Vequist was agent until Dec. 1, when he was replaced by G. E. Davis. They furnished notes concerning plans, cooperating with the group named by the Board of Supervisors which served as a Farm Bureau. (Ibid. Aug. 17, 1918; July 1, 1919).

Extension clubs were organized. Dr. E. P. Anderson, Loup City veterinarian, promoted calf clubs. He interested business men in financing the purchase of pure-bred Hollstein calves. (Times, Nov. 4, 1918). There was also a revival of Granges at this time.

Extension work advanced in Sherman County in the 1933 emergency when the AAA program started with wheat adjustment. Walter J. Stevens, assistant emergency agent from July 24 to Dec. 18, 1933, served from that time until Dec. 31, 1936 as extension agent. During these years the principal work was administration and educational work connected with the wheat and corn-hog adjustment programs and emergency cattle sales, so that little time was available for extension work, although the foundation was started for 4-H club work for boys and girls and project clubs for women. J. V. Cain succeeded Mr. Stevens as agent.

Mrs. H. A. Jung was elected county chairman of Women's Project Clubs in October, 1935. Under her leadership, 36 clubs were organized with 550 members. Mrs. Jung, in reporting on the work (Times, Jan. 13, 1939), mentioned the value of the work during the drouth years.

The Farm Bureau Board of 1936, J. E. Roush, president, and Hiyo Aden, vice-president, encouraged 4-H work by appointing J. V. Cain, county agent, to supervise the boys work, with Mrs. Jung in charge of that of the girls. In 1937 there were 26 clubs with 256 enrolled. Leona Knoepfel received the Union Pacific Scholarship to the University College of Agriculture, for outstanding work; in 1937 Eileen Larsen and Rachel Moomey were winners of the award. A two-day camp was held at Jenner's Park, with 150 registered.

A vote on continuing the county agricultural agent in Sherman County in 1938, according to a ruling of the Attorney General. Mr. J. V. Cain's services were continued until July, 1939, through financial aid from business men and others. Mrs. George Wurtz was leader of Women's Project Clubs. (Times, Aug. 2, 1939).

Officers of the Sherman County Farm Bureau in June, 1946, were: Wm. Couton, president; J. E. Seiffert, vice-president; Alfonso Augustyn, secretary, Gilbert Lewandowski, treasurer. That fall John Ward of Litchfield received the Skelly Agricultural Achievement Award.

Fred H. Shultz became Sherman County agricultural extension agent on July 7, 1949. Stanly Roy had been 4-H leader since 1934. Mrs. Frank Habe of Ravenna had worked with the women's and girls clubs in southern Sherman County. The latter received recognition for her work in 1951. Mr. Shultz was succeeded as county agent by Mr. Joe Havelka, in April, 1951.

In 1950 there were 25 4-H clubs, with 289 members (132 boys, 157 girls), who carried on 424 projects. There were 11 home Extension clubs, formerly called project clubs. (Courtesy of Mr. Fred Shultz, Mar. 7, 1951).

A new County Farm Bureau organization is in progress in Sherman County in 1952. Luther P. Harmon has charge of the proceedings. Cloyce Sides is president, and Mrs. John Seifert, secretary-treasurer.

Production-Marketing-Act Chairman is Harold S. Rademacher.

State-Federal Bureau of Agricultural Statistics released March, 1951, released these figures on the value of Sherman County farm products:

1951 total value, \$4,873,760; 1950, \$4,756,310.

Livestock value, 1951, \$7,100,110; 1950, \$5,046,450. Cattle, 1951, \$5,785,220; 1950, \$3,949,180. Milk cows, 1951, \$1,570,640; 1950 \$1,215,220; All other cattle, 1951, \$4,187,500; 1950, \$2,733,960. Horses, 1951, 3,030, \$92,420; 1950, 3,690, value, \$113,150. Hogs 1951, 27,840; value, \$1,046,780. Sheep, 6,440, value, \$13,800. Chickens, value \$159,260. 1951 corn crop, 71,690 acres, value \$2,511,600; average yield, 49 bushels per acre on irrigated land; 21 bu. per acre, dry land. Winter wheat, 21,390 acres, value, 669,940. Oats acreage was 20,030; barley, 4,030 acres; rye, 1,800 acres; potatoes, 110 acres; spring wheat, 90 acres. Alfalfa, acres, 26,280; yield, 44,680 tons; value of all hay crops, \$1,090,280. Soybeans, value, \$1520.00. (Times, March 13, 1952).

The annual extension meeting of Sherman County, which met in the Loup City High School auditorium Friday, March, 7, 1952, heard these reports:

16 home extension clubs, 261 members, reported by Mrs. Wilson, council chairman.

27 4-H clubs, 354 members, 492 projects, 90 per cent of the projects, valued at 52 thousand dollars completed, reported by County Agent Joe Havelka.

\$2700 of county funds spent for extension service July 1, 1950-July 1, 1951, reported Mrs. John Seifert, secretary-treasurer of the Extension Board.

Excellent cooperation received on all 4-H activities, including the county fair, state fair, Litchfield Old Settlers Picnic, District Dairy Show, Loup City 4-H Camp, fall 4-H party and demonstration day.

Cloyce Sides, Extension Board chairman, distributed 78 awards to 4-H members and leaders. Mrs. Floyd Raymond and Mrs. Sam Ramp were given the Silver Clover Leaf pin and five year leader's certificates.

New extension officers announced by Paul Hookstra, election officers: Joe Hickman and Mrs. Henry Janulewicz, board members from District 1; Elmer Rasmussen Rockville, and Mrs. John Seifert, Boelus, District 5.

Junior fair board, an organization of 4-H members planning 4-H work: Wilbur Heil, Keith Hookstra, Allen Kuhl, Dale Lewandowski, Maxine Pray, Joanne Dudley, Ella Mae Larsen, Althadene Grudzinski. (Times, March 13, 1952).

Janette Golus, 1951 graduate of Loup City High School, was the Sherman County winner of the College of Agriculture U. P. Scholarship for 4-H record and scholastic achievement. (Times, March 20, 1952).

3. Sherman County Soil Conservation District

The Sherman County Soil Conservation District includes all of Sherman County except the towns and cemeteries. The total area is thus approximately 573 square miles, or 366,720 acres. The county-seat, Loup City, near the center of the county, is headquarters of the district.

May 15, 1941, the Loup City Service Club decided to sponsor the organization of a Sherman County District. Beginnings were the agreements of the Ravenna CCC with Sherman County between 1935 and 1939, totalling 4540 acres. This first work was not always of practical value, but it stimulated interest. Farmers in the south part of the county, who had worked with the Buffalo County-Ravenna Soil Con-

ervation District, were disappointed at not being included in it. Insurance companies, the Federal Land Banks, and other agencies had established some conservation practices, including contour farming and grass seeding. Triple A, with its conservation payments, Production Credit Corporation, and Extension Service, had fostered interest.

Following a public meeting of farmers and business men May 15, 1941, the Service Club appointed the following committees: Stanly Roy, chairman, P. J. Kowalski, M. C. Whitehead, and P. M. Squires. A series of articles written by Squires appeared in the Sherman County Times. Following a Soil Conservation Banquet sponsored by the Service Club, SCS and AAA, a petition was completed and presented to the State Committee, with a hearing on Oct. 9, 1942. The vote at the election Nov. 14, 1942, was 12 for, 6 against the proposed district. The Certificate of Organization was issued by the Secretary of State, Jan. 5, 1943.

The office of the Sherman County Soil Conservation District, at first in the Marcy Building north of the Liberty Theatre, is at present in the basement of the Liberty, sharing space with PMA. Stanly Roy was Work Unit Conservationist, until June 1, 1952, when he was replaced by Edwin V. Ellis. Gerald Murray and Evan Philp are Conservation Aids. The Board of Supervisors, Febr., 1952, was: Otto Petersen, Chairman; John Seifert, Vice-Chairman; Jack Charlton, Secretary-treasurer, Roman Kryzski and Pete Jensen. Earlier board members had been John Howe, secretary-treasurer from the beginning to 1951; John Seifert, member of the Board of Supervisors, Soil Conservation District. Emil J. Kahabka, assigned from the Buffalo-Ravenna District, served Sherman County as Work-Unit conservationist from March 15, 1943 to April 1, 1945. Stanly F. Roy began work April 15, 1943, becoming Sherman County-Loup City Work Conservationist April 1, 1945.

Farmers recognized for outstanding soil conservation practices in Oct. 1946 were: L. C. Maciejewski, John Curtis, M. B. Reiter. Those recognized in 1949 were: Herbert Siecke, John Seifert, John Chilewski. Mr. Chilewski's achievement was to transform forty sandy acres west of the Loup River west bridge, by hauling clay from the hill and adding various fertilizers, especially waste from the poultry dressing plant of Fairmont. This stretch, a torment to the schoolteacher or others who walked along its north side, is now levelled and under irrigation.

4. Sherman County Noxious Weed District

The Sherman County Noxious Weed District was organized Dec. 18, 1947. Officers chosen, who still serve are: Herb Bals, president; R. B. Charlton, secretary; Clyde McFadden, treasurer; Al Mroczyk and John Seifert, board members. Thomas McFadden has been operating manager since organization. The county pays for the equipment and hired labor, while the district manages operating and other expenses. Spraying weeds and insects, and treatment of seeds for impurities, is done by the district. (R. B. Charlton, March 4, 1952)

An attempt to organize a Rural Fire District failed in 1948.

5. Proposed Power and Reclamation Projects

The Federal Bureau of Reclamation has surveyed the Middle Loup River for potential power plants. Six hydro-electric plants with a combined capacity of 65,000 kilowatt hours per year, is planned, to be in keeping with the Missouri Basin power requirements.

These plants would be located at Lillian in Custer County, Lee's Park in Valley County, Cairo in Howard County, and at Austin, Rockville, and Ashton in Sherman County. The Rockville reservoir is to contain 678,000 acre-feet of water, providing 3100 kilowatts at its plant. The Austin reservoir would provide water for a 1900-kilowatt plant, while the Ashton reservoir, on Oak Creek, with 61,000 acre-feet, would have a capacity of 23,000 kilowatts. (Times, Nov. 15, 1951).

A Farwell unit of the Lower Platte River Area began surveys in the summer of 1949. A damsite would be located three miles east and one mile north of Loup City, with the reservoir 8 miles in length and three miles wide at the widest point. This reservoir would provide irrigation along Oak Creek and the Farwell area. The total mileage on irrigation in Sherman County would be 8 miles. The survey is complete, but the present war has temporarily suspended further activity.

A Rockville unit has scheduled a damsite one mile northeast of Rockville, with a 13-mile-long reservoir 3 miles wide at its point of greatest width. It is opposed locally because the water would be canalled to the Platte River and also because it would put much Sherman County irrigated land under water. (Interview, Apr. 10, 1951). Peter Badura of Ashton was elected president of the Loup Basin Reclamation District meeting at St. Paul (Grand Island Independent, Jan. 22, 1952.) Other officers are from Sargent, Dannebrog, St. Paul.

CHAPTER X

IRRIGATION

1. First Attempts

The early residents of Sherman County may not have known of the prediction of the governments surveyors, "no means of irrigation on account of elevation unless the common windmill be brought in". But they early arrived at that conclusion, and windmills became common.

The Loup City Canal Company was organized May 3, 1883, with a capital stock of \$3000.00, single shares \$10.00 each. Power for a mill may have been a chief objective. Shareholders were:

Robert Taylor, Peter Truelsen, John Hogue, Calvin Landers, J. C. Edmonson, Wm. Benschoter, Jos. Pedler, M. A. Hartley, R. J. Nightingale, J. R. Scott, T. S. Nightingale, Aaron Wall, John Wall, O. B. Willard, C. J. Odendahl, G. E. Benschoter, W. H. Morris, W. T. Gibson, Elias Brewer, J. F. Simpson, John Hogue. The largest number of shares subscribed was twenty-five; the smallest two. These subscriptions must have been paid, since it was necessary to secure a release in later mill negotiations. (Misc. Rec. I, 198, 462.) John Hogue was president; Hayhurst, Scott and Theiss directors.

A proposed canal project was reported by the Times, Jan. 3, 1889. It was to come down the valley from a point near Arcadia, thirteen miles northwest. Two miles north of Loup City it would

come through a canyon where a retaining wall 800 feet long would provide a fall of 65 feet which would form a lake two and a half miles long and a half mile wide.

The Loup City Canal, Water Power and Improvement Company was organized June 6, 1889. It was to dig a canal through Valley and Sherman Counties. The petition for a special election to vote bonds was signed by 67 citizens. Six citizens, J. R. Scott, M. A. Hartley, A. P. Culley, C. Landers, and W. H. Conger furnished \$100.00 for the special election to vote \$20,000.00 in bonds for the project. (Comm. Rec. II, 35, 39). The vote, 190-62, called for an evening of celebration in April, with the band, fireworks, and five or six bonfires and speeches. (Times, April 10, 1890).

In March, 1889, H. C. Newt, a civil engineer, made a survey of the proposed canal. It was to tap the river at Arcadia fifteen miles above Loup City, run along the bluffs to within four or five miles of town, and form a lake at Dead Horse through a fall of 37 feet. (Times, April 4, 1889).

Action seemed imminent, for the Times later reported that land holders valued the land for a canal too high; that S. H. Sherwood of New York City, who had acquired J. Woods Smith property, had said he would donate the right of way through his land. In December, W. H. Conger was secretary; A. P. Culley, treasurer; and C. J. Odendahl, C. L. Drake and C. H. E. Heath officers in charge. In November,

1890, three representatives of "capitalists" came to view the situation with regard to building the canal along the Loup River for irrigation. (Times, Nov. 26, 1890).

A plan of "raising" water from the canal to the valley for irrigation was reported in February, 1891. In April Theo. Ojendyk was talking of a similar project for the Ashton vicinity. In June, action of Denver firms who were to dig the canal was awaited, although David Kay of Logan, George Bent of Loup City Township, and the Farmer's Alliance opposed the bonds. "Where is Sherman County's irrigation? We have had no rain for three weeks," said the Wiggle Creek correspondent on July 3, 1891.

The answer, given by C. W. Aldridge of Denver later in the month, was that those along the right-of-way would decide whether it would be built. Although it was promised in September (1891), that civil engineers would arrive in a few days to commence work, C. W. Aldrich went east. The canal and improvement project came to nought. (Times, July 17, Sept. 4, 18, 1891).

A revival of interest in irrigation occurred in the nineties. Robert Harvey of St. Paul, former government surveyor, said that dams should be built in "draws" to impound water; he estimated that this could be done at a cost of from five to eight thousand dollars. One expense item was the hiring of 40 men at \$2.00 per day. (Times, May 4, 1894.)

From a meeting at the St. Elmo Hotel August 5, 1894, came the Sherman County Irrigation, Water Power and Improvement Company. At the first meeting of stockholders August 11, 1894, C. L. Drake (hotel manager) became president; Charles Riedel (farmer) vice-president; W. R. Mellor (real estate dealer and farmer), secretary; A. P. Culley (banker), Aaron Wall (lawyer), Carsten Truelsen (farmer), and J. Phil Jaeger (merchant) were the board of directors.

Loup City and Logan Townships each voted eight thousand dollars in bonds for the benefit of the project. The ditch was

to leave the river south of Arcadia and be extended to the southern end of Loup Township, a total distance of 24 miles, 944 feet of fluming was required to carry the irrigation water across the roads and low places, twenty-nine bridges, twenty culverts of salt-glazed vitrified pipe, and eight wooden box culverts. An outflow at Loup City required 10,000 feet of lumber, where a fall of fifty feet would be obtained. This water went into Dead Horse Creek and from there into the river.

Since the canal followed the edge of the hills, three lakes were formed above Loup City. T. W. O. Wolfe, practical engineer was in charge. Robert Harvey assisted in the survey (and uncovered Indian relics). (Times, Febr. 27, 1924). T. L. Pilger, Loup City merchant, advanced a considerable amount for repairs. 17,000 acres of farm and pasture land were "under the ditch". (Book of Facts, pp. 69-79).

Amended articles of incorporation had been filed Aug. 7, 1894, (Misc. Rec. II, 94), by John G. Schaupp, C. L. Drake, Chas. Riedel, J. T. Hale, Theo. L. Pilger, Geo. H. Scott. Directors were Aaron Wall, A. P. Culley, Carsten Truelsen, R. J. Nightingale, and J. Phil Jaeger.

The construction of the canal was a boon in supplying employment. By November, 1894, thirty teams with drivers were at work between Loup City and School District No. 5. The "deepest" cut was a mile above Loup City, through a hill known as "Sugar Loaf", 28 feet deep and 300 feet long. (Times, Dec. 21, 1894).

Difficulties appeared. The B & M Railroad Company at once protested the increased taxes because of bonds, and determined to test their legality. (Sup. Rec. II, 567). The case dragged in court, but in July, 1902, the injunction was dissolved, and the B & M paid the taxes.

More serious was the difficulty encountered because the Sherman County Company had failed to acquire the strip of land at the "head race". The Arcadia Miller, Robert Johnson, contended that when water was taken from the river for irrigation, his mill wheel would not turn. A suit, Robert Johnson, Appellee, vs. Sherman County Irrigation, Water Power, and Improvement Company (Vol. 63, 510) recited the claim:

John G. Schaupp had established a flour mill on the Middle Loup near Arcadia in March, 1887; that the Sherman County I, W, and I Company in 1894 had purchased the Schaupp interest in the dam at the head of the island, the banks, and the land; that Schaupp was to have water for the mill when not needed for irrigation, he to keep the intake and raceway in good repair. The mill had used the power from 1887 to 1894. Did the plaintiff have the right to the strip of land from the headrace to the northeast quarter section?

This case dragged on until 1904, when only a few trustees of the company were left. Water had been "cut off" in 1896 (although enough was released into the canal to irrigate within four miles of Loup City). Rains had returned, and interest in irrigation was forgotten. By 1904 the ditches were filling up and the flumes long since removed. The county supervisors ordered bridges removed and ditches filled. (Sup. Proc. V, 33, Apr. 26, 1904).

In 1896, at the time of the June 5 storm, the ditch broke in the hills above Loup City. The water rushed toward the river. The McCoy family, living in the U. P. section house, found the cave in which they had taken refuge, was filling. In leaving the storm cave, a little five-year old girl was left behind. It was thought she might have been stunned by hailstones when the family entered the cave, and that in the excitement it was not noticed, so that the family left the cave without her. (Northwestern, Special Edition, June, 1896).

Carsten Trølsen, eight miles above Loup City, was irrigating eighty acres that summer. On it he produced 80 bushels of wheat to the acre. Gardens in town were superlative, but old-timers noted that springs were again flowing, rains were abundant, so irrigation ceased. Farms which received the water after the suit began, could show fine yields.

In 1895, and for several years following, a number of Sherman County farmers attempted the raising of sugar beets. Almost universally, the crop was rejected, or their yields were poor. This was in

part due to the fact that the growing of sugar beets was poorly understood at that time.

AUSTIN IRRIGATION COMPANY

The Austin Irrigation Company of Sherman County was organized Nov. 13, 1913, capitalization \$10,000.00. The canal tapped the river at Austin and reentered it at Rockville. W. C. Fletcher, R. C. Fletcher, R. E. Gilman, F. O. Hendrickson, Ed Isaacson, Nicholas Daddow and Hiram Hartwell were incorporators. (Misc. Rec. VII, 177).

When State Engineer Ericksen inspected the Austin Canal in 1915, he pronounced it one of the best in the state. W. S. Fletcher, irrigating a 60 acre wheat field, had covered it the second day without any help. Nicholas Daddow raised 12-pound cabbages; W. S. Fletcher's strawberries were finer than ever. 3,000 acres lay under the canal, so level that little grading was required. (Nebraska Record, April, 1915). The canal ceased to be used about 1925. Mr. Hiram Hartwell states that thousands of dollars worth of lumber were later submerged. (May 26, 1952).

MIDDLE LOUP POWER AND IRRIGATION PROJECT

The drouth of the '30's revived Sherman County's interest in irrigation. O. H. Henningson of the Henningson Engineering Construction Company, and Attorney-General C. W. Sorensen, graduate of Loup City High School, addressed a meeting on the subject of irrigation on December 1, 1932. A preliminary meeting had been held Sept. 28, 1932.

Loup City raised \$2,000.00 and Arcadia, \$1,991 for a preliminary survey which Mr. Henningson had completed by April 7, 1933. On April 21, officials were elected to promote the project:

Walter E. Gibbons, Comstock, president; A. B. Outhouse, Loup City, vice-president; N. A. Lewin, Arcadia, secretary. C. A. Sorensen, specializing in irrigation law, was later attorney.

The plan was to "dam" the Narrows between Arcadia and Comstock, then run canals down each side of the river, to Rockville. This would irrigate 30,000 acres. To finance the project, a 4½ per cent loan was to be secured from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. There was a North Loup Irrigation project active at the same time.

A committee, Mr. H. C. James, with the Henningson Engineering Company, Walter Gibbons and A. B. Outhouse, appeared before the PWA legal department in Washington, D. C., in January, 1934. The delegation spent much time in calling on congressmen, senators, and other officials. Senator George W. Norris made their plans his special concern. Mr. A. B. Outhouse presented figures on a farm in Logan Township which he had managed since 1888. It had been irrigated in 1896-97, so that he could show what irrigation accomplished in Sherman County. The engineering department was also visited, and Mr. Outhouse wrote (Jan. 26, 1932) that if they were refused the first time, they were laying the foundation, with the advice of C. A. Sorensen, attorney, for a second attempt.

The Middle Loup project received an allotment of \$625,000, and a loan of \$765,000. Of this, \$1,040,000 was for irrigation, and \$350,000 for

building transmission lines. (The original hydro-electric plan was eliminated). The project would call for 600 laborers, 150 semi-skilled, and 85 men with teams. (Times, Aug. 21, 1936.)

Final approval was received from President F. D. Roosevelt and on August 21, 1939, a crowd of 6,000 celebrated the event. Chief speakers were Gov. R. L. Cochran, who had been state engineer when the project was proposed, Congressman H. B. Coffee, M. C. Good, state engineer, J. E. Lawrence, editor of the Lincoln Star, with Judge E. W. Moehnert as master of ceremonies. The efforts of Senator George W. Norris were recalled. Besides a banquet for the many distinguished guests, free dances at Wichman's Pavilion and on the pavement, vaudeville attractions, free picture show and free admission to Jenner's Park, entertained the crowd.

In October, 1936, the first ground was broken, with appropriate ceremonies, each official taking part. The next summer, the Roberts Construction Company, a subsidiary of Morrison-Knudson, was excavating the ditches. At Loup City, they constructed temporary residences for their employees on the bluffs north of the end of main street. To make them enduring in the summer heat, there was an overhead sprinkling system. Work went on day and night. The lighted drag-line and cars of workers coming and going, enlivened the scene. Several Sherman County residents, among them Arthur N. Rowe and Jack Lofholm, have since been employed by Morrison-Knudson.

Water was turned into the irrigation canal in October, 1937, and on June, 1938, those whose fields had been levelled, had water. Need for irrigation was evident. Sewell Wingfield, chief PWA project engineer, spoke on irrigation in February, 1939. H. C. James, was chosen chief engineer and general manager of the Middle Loup Power and Irrigation District.

A power injunction was served against the Middle Loup project in April, 1939. The difficulties were eventually overcome; the REA reorganized the finances of the project, and Engineer James moved headquarters to Arcadia, nearer the center of the district. In 1941 the Middle Loup was told it must have 15,000 more acres under irrigation. M. S. Dodd became engineer in August, 1942, following the resignation of Mr. James. E. G. Stone of Comstock was elected president in 1943, succeeding Clark Reynolds of Loup City, who had served since 1940. (In 1939 the Middle Loup project was "on its own" having severed connection with the PWA). Paul Dean of Arcadia was made water master.

The cost to the district under PWA was \$1,163,036.45. Additional money, \$72,000, was advanced by the RFC. The terms of the government sale of the project to the organization in 1950 were: \$100,000 cash in full payment of bonds to the amount of \$728,000, and accrued interest of \$259,954.00.

The Middle Loup Power and Irrigation District in 1951 reported approximately 12,000 acres under irrigation. There are four canals, two on each side of the river; total length, 79.1 miles; Canal No. 1,

12.4 mi.; Canal No. 2, 12.5 mi.; Canal No. 3, 24.7 mi.; Canal No. 4, 29.5 miles.

The rental contract charge per acre is \$2.50 a season, with a per acre assessment of \$1.00 per acre, and a debt requirement assessment of \$1.00 per acre, a total of \$4.50 per acre in 1951. When rainfall occurs in greater abundance, the tendency is to forget the years of drouth, and become indifferent. This attempt at irrigation in Sherman County should endure.

Present officers of the association are:

E. G. Stone, Comstock, president; Wm. Couton, Loup City, vice-president; Clark S. Reynolds, Loup City, treasurer; and Lorena Doe, Arcadia, secretary. Floyd Bossen and Glen Haller are additional directors; Paul A. Dean, Arcadia, manager, and C. A. Sorensen, Lincoln, attorney. (Information from office of secretary, Arcadia, Nebraska; reports of the Middle Loup Power and Irrigation District; and personal correspondence; of A. B. Outhouse).

CHAPTER XI

DROUTH AND RELIEF IN SHERMAN COUNTY

1. From 1873-1930

Sherman County, in its first levy, July 7, 1873, assigned one mill for the support of the poor. Because there was only one precinct in the county, the three commissioners at first allowed the bills for the care of the poor and insane. (July 7, 1874; July 5, 1875). After that time, bills were presented by justices of peace of the townships as required by law.

Although the county had acquired a farm, called the "poor farm", from the B&M railroad (E½ 35-16-15), July 10, 1878, no buildings were constructed there until 1884. Jacob Albers, the first renter, is said to have cared for at least one indigent, but because of the small size of the house, no later occupants did so. Bills for individuals continued to be presented singly.

There was also a Soldier's Relief Committee of three members which functioned. The first Mother's Pension Law was passed in 1915, changed in 1919. The Aid for Dependent Children was passed in 1936; Old Age Assistance in 1933.

Grasshoppers caused the first widespread hardship in Sherman County, consuming the crops in '74 and '76. Mrs. Minnie Wall Johansen stated that many residents left the county. In '76, following the grasshoppers and an Indian scare, houses were moved from town to claims. Loup City's population at that time dwindled to seven families: C. E. Rosseter, H. A. Gladding, Reuben French, Greene Brown, C. H. French, and John Harkins. (Recollections, April, 1933).

There were forerunners of depression before the drouth of '91. The Times editor commented (April 14, 1887):

"Loup City real estate business is declining. Every man has a quarter section in each ear and a corner lot in each eye. All will sell cheap."

Eastern money had come into the county; the two railroads had arrived in 1886 and 1887. "Boom and Bust", described the situation. The Sherman County Bank closed its doors Dec. 26, 1888; the Loup City Roller Mills were in the hands of the sheriff (Times, Jan. 10, 1889); cattle prices were low; Mellor and Pyke in Loup City were forced to close; Townsend at Rockville failed; the summer of 1890 was hot and dry.

Relief meetings became necessary by January, 1891. One of the first was held at the Parle schoolhouse (Dist. No. 28), where two thirds of those present said they could not get grain. Applications for seed grain were to be filed with the township clerk. No grain was shipped for feed by the State Relief Commission.

On Jan. 18, 1891, the county board of supervisors (George Bent, chairman), sent the following petition to the legislature: (Sup. Rec. III, 84):

that the desolations of the drouth of last summer are upon us, and also of hail in various parts of the county; the want of food, fuel, and clothing, and seed, rise up and are widespread, and being unforeseen, no provision has been made and no funds are available—Reports come from every part of the county of families without the money or credit to buy fuel, food, or clothing, or seed, and we find no provision in the law whereby we can reach their care. This destitution has come from ungarnered fields and thus no one can tell what suffering may ensue; 1st, from the severity of the weather should such follow the exceedingly favorable weather thus far enjoyed. (Note: Heavy snows fell in January; snow was still visible in canyons in May); 2nd, from the utter want of food in many families;—our citizens in many instances have no place where they can find employment for either themselves or their teams; 3rd, from the want of seed, which if not supplied, will prolong our miseries, and thus in every part fields will remain untilled, and no provision made for the coming year.

"We therefore urge upon your body—such action as will enable us to meet by a wise and careful use of whatever means may be open to you, to supply our unforeseen and unusual wants, that the cry of the poor may not be heard in vain.

The State Relief Commission shipped a carload of coal and other provisions. Austin reported that feed was scarce and stock was dying. In March Rockville reported "deceit" in the matter of aid. A herd of 80 cattle, being moved for better grazing, stopped at J. C. Fletcher's. Government ownership of railroads was advocated. Political reforms were agitated as necessary to overcome the situation.

Yet in January, 1892, when Governor Thayer called upon the people of Nebraska to ship corn to starving Russians, Sherman County raised \$65.00. Bonds for a new school building failed in Loup City. On May 27, 1892, the Times editor said:

"the town has encountered many difficulties; its foundation was attended by the most extravagant misappropriation of resources; large sums were drawn away by a miscarriage of private enterprise; to crown it all, a dry year".

Old timers recall that the buffalo grass, cured on the hills by mid-summer, made feed which furnished the finest beef imaginable; Reform ideas continued; Republicans and Democrats in Sherman County

fused, with their opponent taking the name Independent, which name was added to the title of the Sherman County Times.

In June, 1893, the railroads discontinued passenger service for a few months for lack of patronage; people left the country in covered wagons. Hot winds added to discomfort. A diphtheria epidemic took the life of editor W. H. Daddow of the Times, also that of his three children. Trees on the courthouse grounds died.

The Sherman County Board of Supervisors on Jan. 3, 1895, sent a statement to the Omaha newspapers, the State Aid Association, and to the county newspapers. It recounted that there had been an almost total crop failure the two preceding years; that one sixth of the population lived in the towns; that the supervisors had visited 256 families, one fifth of the county's population, finding that for the 1425 persons 180 bushels of corn, 332 bushels of oats, and 34 bushels of potatoes, or an average per family of half a bushel of corn, one fourth of a bushel of oats, and one seventh of a bushel of potatoes was on hand. There was no feed for the scanty amount of livestock; no market for horses, and on the third day of January, 1895, not one dollar's worth of help was forthcoming.

The statement tells of the mild winter (through December), which enabled stock to live on dead grass, of people selling needed stock at starvation prices; of \$3000.00 in county funds available for relief distributed to the towns, less than fifty cents per person on the average. (Sup. Rec. III, 448).

"By personal solicitation a good carload of flour and other items and a carload of coal were sent to the county from Shambaugh, Iowa, and we think another carload of coal is on the way from the same place. These were distributed to the most destitute—under the direction of the supervisors (hailed by the Rock Island free of charge), 38 sacks of flour to each township, and one and one half tons of coal.

"Our people are not tramps or beggars. If there was work with pay at the end of it they so far as able work and pay for what they need. People who have no food, poor clothing, poor habitation, in many instances away from near neighbors, two to twenty miles from towns which when reached have no stock of supplies to be sold.

"It is not right when wheat is abundant and flour is cheap that the hardy tillers of the soil who have struggled for the past two years to raise a crop should be refused a pittance in this hour of extremity—

Louis F. Rein, by C. F. C. Moor, Dep.

The hardships undergone by families in these years cannot be told. Children did not attend school; they came to town but once a year; they succumbed easily to disease, so that undertakers always carried in stock half a dozen baby caskets. Desperation prompted hatred, bitterness; the bad in human nature came to the top. One coal dealer told of refusing relief coal to an individual able to pay for it; that night the party returned and stole it.

A. P. Culley and D. C. Doe of the First Bank of Loup City kept furnishing seed wheat, requiring only that the seed be returned. From necessity, many families stayed "to fight it out", because they were too poor to leave, even in a mover's wagon. There was much inde-

pendent thinking and study; neighborliness prevailed along with suspicion and misdealing. Russian thistles appeared, and Sherman County voted that the property owner must remove them, or be charged for the bill, a situation which caused controversy.

All sorts of remedies were seized upon. Theories of rainmaking were many; pounding powder on an anvil was one. C. L. Drake, St. Elmo landlord, and T. M. Reed, Blacksmith, spent hours at this pounding, and after midnight some moisture fell on June 3, 1892. Professional rainmakers toured the state. Mr. A. P. Culley of the First Bank was convinced that they should be hired; Broken Bow hired one; D. W. Titus of Litchfield collected \$80.00 to hire one for Sherman County.

On Jan. 8, 1895 the supervisors estimated that 2,000 people in the county needed help, in the form of food and clothing; that feed for teams, and 20,000 bushels of wheat, 7500 of oats and 7,000 of corn was needed. The county paid the freight on relief grain. (Sup. Rec. III, 466). \$5,700 was set aside for Sherman County Relief, with Geo. Bent secretary of the Sherman County Relief Fund. On August 29, 1894, the county board voted to transfer all lawful funds to assist the poor and needy. Loup City and Logan Townships voted bonds for the construction of an irrigation ditch between Arcadia and Loup City. The employment furnished by this project was life-saving.

The ditch was in use in 1896, but at this time the dry cycle came to an end. Springs on Davis Creek and Dead Horse, which had been dry for several years, began flowing; rains were abundant. Litigation regarding water rights plus an abundance of rainfall, caused the first successful irrigation project to lapse. In the good years that followed the hard times of the nineties were only a tale to the younger generation.

(To cite the separate newspaper references on the above would be endless, longer than the story.)

2. Drouth, Depression, and Relief, 1931-41

Because of increase in population, the depression of the 1930's was most severe and far-reaching in its effects. Relief measures were parallel with the development of new government policies. Although Sherman County had sent relief to Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1930, (a carload of wheat and flour and two boxes of clothing), and a carload to Knox County, Nebraska, in 1931; although the American Legion in 1932, with C. E. Wanek, E. W. Moehnert, and E. P. Anderson as leaders had sent 19 cars to northeast Nebraska, Sherman County was even then feeling the depression. Crops were abundant, but prices low.

Sept. 5, 1931—County buys 100 bu. of potatoes for the poor from S. N. Criss, price 50c per bushel. (Sup. Rec. vii, 458)

June 17, 1932—Supervisors discuss care of poor and unemployed; economy in courthouse recommended fix date for hearing on grasshopper aid. (Ibid. 546).

July 12, 1932—Grasshopper damage in southwest corner of county. Wood to be hauled to Loup City, cut by unemployed. (Trees die because of fall in water level) (Ibid. 550).

July 18, 1932—County clerk to secure prices on staples by the carload. Attempt to get wheat or flour from Red Cross. (Ibid. 570).

Sept. 13, 1932—Hogs to be bought for needy families. Merchants to be notified county discontinues allowances for supplies, will act in individual cases. (Dec. 31, '32. Sup. Rec. VIII, 575, 594).

Febr. 17, 1933—Foodstuffs to be supplied: canned salmon, sidemeat, lard, butter, milk, coffee, tea, salt, sugar, laundry and toilet soap, other staples. Citizens Protective Association, A. J. Johnson, chairman, recommends ways to save money: "with grim want, poverty, and destitution everywhere, officials should exercise care." (Ibid. 624). Committee from Sherman County Taxpayers League, reduce county phones, road operations, county fair levy. (Ibid. 627, 632).

July 11, 1933—County purchases three tons of grasshopper bran, sold to farmers at \$1.25 per hundred. County to apply for federal relief for care of needy. Old Age Pension Law adopted. Relief commission: A. E. Chase, F. Janulewicz, C. F. Beusheusen, T. A. Gzehoviak, W. C. Hendrickson. (Ibid. 660).

Aug. 10, 1933—Federal Emergency Relief Committee, S. S. Ignowski, chairman county board of supervisors; C. E. Wanek, Loup City; C. C. Dean, Litchfield. State Emergency Relief Committee asked for help, Sherman County has left only \$1122.00. (Ibid. 670).

Aug. 12, 1933—County purchases box cars for relief of needy, moves families to town to save transportation expense—located north of railroad right-of-way; arrange for city water connection. John Janulewicz takes place of C. F. Beusheusen as head of county relief work. (Ibid. 678).

Nov. 21, 1933—Sherman County allotted \$17,000 for relief.

Dec. 11, 1933—George J. Pointer appointed relief worker. (Ibid. 687).

January, 1934—County Corn-Hog program. (Times, Jan. 8, 1934).

Jan. 24, 1934—Federal Land Bank made 200 loans totalling \$650,000 to Sherman County since Farm Credit Loan Association formed in May, 1933. (Leader, Jan. 24, 1934).

March 22, 1934—Emil Beusheusen appointed relief director.

March 30, 1934—930 registered for work, 85 women, CWA. 30 Farm-Loan Associations formed, J. R. Long, secretary-treasurer. (Sup. Rec. IX, 38).

June 14, 1934—Communist Riot at Courthouse.

July 20, 1934—Buying of cattle too poor for human consumption begun at Rockville, temperature 110. Calves, \$4-\$8.00 per head; cows, \$10.00 to \$20.00 per head; 1026 bought. Payment under Corn-Hog program, \$332,810.00. (Leader, Jan. 27, 1934).

Aug. 3, 1934—Cattle buying resumed—\$15,960.

Sept. 12, 1934—Sherman County cattle sold at U. P. yards.

Oct. 12, 1934—Federal Rural Rehabilitation project. Federal government buys east half of county farm; will build farmsteads for 10 families.

Dec. 21, 1934—Rehabilitation project begun; 10 tracts of 9½ acres each; house 24x36, screened porch, barn, poultry house.

Jan. 10, 1935—Walter Stevens, county agent. Road work to be supervised by county (Sup. Rec. IX, 110).

Jan. 11, 1935—Only 17 head of cattle sold at government sale. Harry Hinman, relief director. Federal Farm census to be taken.

March 1, 1935—Corn-Hog Allotment committee elections in each township.

May 31, 1935—Housing projects ready for occupancy, ten farm families chosen. \$91.00 collected for Republican Valley flood relief.

June 3, 1935—Grasshoppers.

August , 1935—Grasshoppers on streets of Loup City; 32 WPA projects in county; K. W. Broick in charge of relief work employment; Corn-Wheat production board elections.

Nov. 22, 1935—Farmstead to receive \$3800.00 more for irrigation; Taxes lower.

Dec. 20, 1935—WPA Sewing project, Mrs. Charles H. Bacus, supervisor. From May, 1933, to Dec. '35 Sherman County received: Corn-Hog, \$320,000; Cattle, \$159,287; Wheat, \$25,410.99; Drouth Relief, \$12,033.79; Emergency Relief Loans, \$329,158; total, \$845,887.78.

Jan. 26, 1936—Government buys 200 head of Sherman County cattle in B&M yards.

Febr. 11, 1936—Apply for Federal Surplus commodities distribution. Resettlement Director, L. A. White (Sup. Rec. IX, 209). 267 Work Agreements offered by Rehabilitation Office.

June 12, 1936—Grasshoppers a menace. Sherman County declared a drouth area.

Aug. 21, 1936—\$96,000 expended in Resettlement Project in Sherman County. Trench silos for Russian thistles.

Dec. 15, 1936—450 WPA workers to be laid off in Sherman County (Sup. Rec. IX, 237). Walter Stevens resigns as county agent.

Febr. 19, 1937—Farm Bureau over the top in finance program.

May 28, 1937—Resettlement administrator E. A. Slote succeeded by E. Croly.

June 11, 1937—Grasshopper poison bran arrives.

Oct., 1937—New county agent to be chosen.

Dec. 15, 1937—Meeting of county board with L. A. White, Director of Farm Securities Administration, on grants and loans to farmers; ask that Sherman County be declared a drouth area. (Sup. Rec. IX, 333). Farm Bureau stores 150 sacks of bran in county building. FSA secures volunteer work agreements. (Ibid. 354).

Jan., 1938—J. V. Cain, new county agent.

March 8, 1938—No assistance to those in pool halls. (Ibid. 372).

May 10, 1938—Sewing center in former Gamble Store.

Oct., 1938—One of driest since Febr., 1937 (Times).

Jan. 10, 1939—H. A. Hinman, Mrs. Staley and Mrs. Evelyn Bartunek in State Assistance Office. Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation vacate Legion room. (Sup. Rec. IX, 413).

March 1, 1939—Vacancies in farmstead houses. L. E. Dahlgren, supervisor.

May 4, 1939—NYA Rug Project started in Nov. 1938, sponsored by Loup City Woman's Club, Mrs. R. P. Starr supervisor.

June 8, 1939—WPA project, School Dist. 1, repair and landscape.

Aug. 2, 1939—Sherman County Farm Bureau closes, failed in election; maintained since Jan. 1939 with subscription funds. Dedication of auditorium at fair grounds, Gov. Cochran.

March 12, 1940—Geiger, W.P.A. district director; Sherman County director, Baker. Insure equipment and supplies in Sewing Center and Assistance Office. (Sup. Rec. IX, 489).

March 27, 1940—NYA completes headgates at State Park. WPA—storm sewers, 54 miles roads, 25 bridges, Rockville school improvements, Litchfield water system, sewing project.

Aug. 13, 1940—Application for stamp plan of distribution of surplus commodities—first corn parity payments. (Sup. Rec. IX, 514).

Sept. 11, 1940—Sale of box car housing units to Paul Mathews and Dick Spelts. (Sup. Rec. IX, 534). Loup City NYA rugs, top honors.

Jan. 4, 1941—Mrs. Laura M. Staley, Stamp Issuance officer.

July 16, 1941—Floyd A. Raymond Federal Securities Administration, Sherman County.

Aug. 12, 1941—Alan H. Ihms—Assistance director (Sup. Rec. IX, 561).

Nov. 12, 1941—Purchase cook stove and ice box for NYA hot lunch program (Ibid. 575).

March 10, 1942—Margaret Legg, caseworker (Ibid. 597).

May 12, 1942—Change Stamp Plan to State Mail Order Plan

Febr. 13, 1945—Margaret Legg, assistance director (Sup. Rec. X, 69).

Febr. 12, 1946—Alan H. Ihms, assistance director.

Aug. 31, 1949—Margaret Legg, assistance director (Ibid. X, 289).

Aug. 8, 1950—Mrs. Audrey Summers, assistant, left June, 1952.

The Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut, was one of the holders of mortgages against Sherman County farms when the drouth-depression period of the '30's came on. The Travelers at one time owned 142 farms, a few unimproved tracts, but most of them improved farmsteads. While they ranged in size from 80 to 700 acres, 240 acres was the average size.

Travelers tried to meet the situation with a fair policy of rentals to the tenant if he desired to stay, with no forcible ejection of lessees. Also they planned to improve the farms in order to have them in good condition. They maintained an agent at Loup City, who organized the activities of a carpenter crew which worked almost the year round. The essential paint used was in two colors, white for the house, red for the barn and other outbuildings. During those years, if one saw an unpainted farmstead, the remark was, "He's trying to hang on;" if painted, "Belongs to an insurance company."

When conditions improved and land began to sell in the early 1940's, the farms were sold at an equitable price. Travelers sold their last Sherman County farm in 1946. While many of these involved a mortgage to be carried back by Travelers, there was no repossession of farms or any marked delinquency. H. B. Rupert and D. D. Pilger were representatives of the Travelers in this farm program in Sherman County (Travelers Insurance Company, March 19, 1951).

Other companies which held mortgages in Sherman County were: Penn Mutual, which opened an office in Loup City, Nov. 1936, Leo Bolin, manager; Aetna Life Insurance Company; Union Central Life Insurance Company; Columbian National Life; Midwest Life; Connecticut General Life; Prudential Life Insurance Company.

CHAPTER XII

MINERAL WEALTH

1. Brickyards, Gravel and Sand

In new surroundings, the early settlers did not overlook the possibility of mineral wealth. The expedition to the Black Hills during the summer of '76, while fruitless for the Loup Cityites, rekindled the hope. John Goldworthy, with a Welsh mining experience behind him, did locate a mine in Montana in 1891.

The outcroppings of rock along the creek of that name were quarried. In 1886, when much building was going on in Loup City, C. W. Conhiser and M. A. Hartley hauled the stone to Loup City. It was used as foundation stones for house-corners (there were few basements in those days). (Book of Facts, p. 54)

In the late '80's, Marshall A. Hartley and John Edmonson tried burning this rock to secure lime, at Hartley's home place, west of the library, but were unsuccessful. (Times, Sept. 21, 1934). However, the Ohlsen's experimented with it in 1889, and reported securing a good quality of lime from it. (Ibid. Sept. 5, '89).

Frank (Francis G.) Nightingale, son of T. S., who acted as flagman in the resurvey of the Sherman-Howard County line in 1893, recalled the rough outcroppings in northeast Sherman County. A scum on water holes at the time led the crew to believe that oil might be present. (Interview, Waco, Texas, Jan. 20, 1952).

Farmers one and one half miles from Litchfield proposed to prospect for oil, coal and gas, according to the Litchfield Monitor, Dec. 23, 1910. It was announced on June 16, 1911, that Lew Haller, Litchfield's well man, was prospecting for coal in Sherman County. Francis W. Lang told in August, 1937, how one prospector for coal was duped by his neighbors. (Monitor, Aug. 5, 1937).

In February, 1898, Mr. Nicholas Hansen brought in a nugget of gold found in Logan Township. In 1905, a nugget of gold was found in the "craw" of a turkey raised on the J. D. Burns farm in Washington Township. (Times, Febr. 16, 1905).

Sand, clay, and gravel are discovered in special deposits in various parts of the county. The proper mixture of sand and clay makes a hard road, with a glazed surface. Gravel pits in various parts of the county are found and used from time to time.

Loup City's first brick plant, operated by — Gilbert in 1874 was located south of Jenner's Park, near Dead Horse Creek. This brick, not too hard, was used in building Sherman County's first courthouse, which burned in 1874. The walls of the building stood, and were utilized in the rebuilding. In 1887, the brick yard was in the hands of a man named Handy.

Henry Ohlsen, with — Schmidt, located a brick plant south of town, near Dead Horse, in 1887. Situated between the two railroads, it was an ideal location. His brother John Ohlsen, joined him in 1889.

At first the bricks were made by hand. Mrs. John Ohlsen in 1933 recalled that she and her sister-in-law often helped with the molding. If a rain came up at night, every one helped to put the bricks under cover.

Business grew, and the plant was enlarged. There was a giant double kiln, each side 25x50 feet. Trolleys brought the brick to the kiln; coal by the carload was delivered at the furnace by both railroads. Kilns and sheds were remodelled in 1908, when a giant smokestack was added, a landmark in the southern part of town. A fire destroyed the plant on Jan. 3, 1912.

As the families of the two men grew older, contracting activities expanded. In 1910 the partnership was dissolved. John Ohlsen and his two sons, William and Edwin, became John Ohlsen and Sons. The largest building constructed by this firm was at Chadron, Nebraska. Many Loup Cityites were employed. Ervin, "Buff" Rowe, was reputedly one of the best and fastest bricklayers in the state. William Ohlsen was later a contractor in southern California. His brother Edwin, engaged in a stone and marble works, built a fine church, financed by Doheny, in Los Angeles.

Henry Ohlsen and Sons, (Herman, Albion, Henry, Jr., and Osmer) located in David City, Nebraska in 1914. Herman died at West Point, Nebr., in 1917. Albion and Osmer are now in the contracting business in Lander, Wyo., while Henry, Jr., is with Peter Kiewitt and Co., of Omaha, Nebr.

When cement block manufacture became popular, C. J. Tracy, A. L. Zimmerman and Joe Reiman had plants. Litchfield also had a cement block plant. The Clancy Marble Works of Litchfield shipped in stone suitable for monuments and markers.

Ashton also had a brick plant near it. In 1886 it was announced that W. Streithorst of Deer Creek had purchased H. Smelser's interest in the brickyard, which would be operated by Fred Wichman. (Times, March 23, 1911). It was a small yard, whose product was used in local building, and did not last long.

2. The Search for Oil and Gas

A Loup Valley Syndicate announced in December (Times, Dec. 4), 1940 that it would drill for oil. Sherman County citizens were said to have an interest in the organization.

The Carter Oil Company, from 1941 to 1942, made tests in Sherman County. Leases were secured with the aid of R. E. Spelts. The first test was made west of Loup City; the second on the George Heil farm, near Rockville; the third test, southeast of Loup City, on the Mike Nicholas farm. The Veeder Drilling Company reported, in May, 1943, that they had reached a depth of 347 feet. If it is true, as geologists state, that a sharp bend in a river indicates the presence of oil, then the Middle Loup, with its turn from west to south below Loup City, is trying to tell something.

A third series of leases were drawn up in 1951-52, with the General Geophysical Company of Houston, Texas, acting for the Ohio Oil Company. Land transfers now record the reservation of oil, gas and mineral

rights, showing a consciousness of possible discoveries. (Times for years mentioned, *passim*).

The Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska, in a map published March 11, 1952 (Nebraska State Journal) showed the gas and oil status of Sherman County: 4 dry holes. Leases have brought some financial return to landholders.

The Imperial Production Corporation of Wichita, Kansas filed 129 leases in the office of county clerk Margaret Simpson June 21, 1952. These leases are generally located on the west side of the river, from Washington down to Bristol Township, with a few in Logan on the east side. (Times, June 26, 1952).

CHAPTER XIII

BANKS IN SHERMAN COUNTY

The earliest settlers depended upon banks at Kearney and Grand Island, as did the county when it began. The safe of William Benschoter was rented by the county (Comm. Rec. I, 36, Apr. 22, 1875). There was also reference to county money being in the hands of Peter Truelsen, and in the safe of Lalk and Kriechbaum. (Ibid., July 20, 1878; July 9, 1879).

In June, 1882, the St. Paul editor announced that Lalk and Kriechbaum, with Peter Truelsen, were organizing a bank of which D. D. Grow would be cashier, calling it The Pioneer Bank. It seems to have been a private bank. In 1887 the Times referred to Clara Griessen as cashier of the Pioneer Bank.

The Sherman County Bank was incorporated May 15, 1882, with a capital of \$30,000.00. Membership was by subscription. Incorporators were Cyrus W. Wyant, M. A. Theiss, M. A. Haddix, and Harrington Emerson. (Misc. Rec. I, 164). It was succeeded by the Sherman County Banking Company, which was incorporated June 16, 1884, by Edward E. Whaley and Milton P. Theiss, Seward County business men, also interested in the mill. Its organization was changed Oct. 31, 1887, when it was incorporated for \$50,000.00, with shares of stock sold to local people. E. S. Hayhurst, hardware and implement dealer, from Pennsylvania; Lyman Tracy, New York stockman; John F. Hogue, Indiana business man, were named in the organization, which was effected by John Hogue in Noble County, Indiana.

This bank closed Dec. 26, 1888, with an assignment made to the creditors at that time. Because the county had funds in the bank, a series of lawsuits followed. One opinion stated that accounts of the Sherman County Bank, its predecessor, were worthless when received, and that the stockholders, except Whaley and Theiss, were not personally responsible. A long list of citizens holding shares of stock, suffered loss. (Misc. Rec. I, 250; Court Rec. II, 271; Misc. Rec. I, 30). E. S. Hayhurst turned over all his available assets, and "began over again", prospering "as he deserved", a friend always said.

W. R. Mellor, treasurer of School District No. 1, had \$1,169.96 of school funds in the bank when it closed. In 1902 he stated that he met Mr. Whaley on the night of Dec. 25, 1888, when Mr. Whaley told him the bank would not reopen in the morning. Mr. Mellor went to the bank, where he was allowed to take what available assets he could find. Since W. H. Morris, county clerk, and J. K. Pearson, county treasurer, had already selected from the available securities the best to make their claims secure, Mr. Mellor found but \$40.00 in nickels and pennies, and worthless notes. From the notes only \$40.00 was realized.

Mr. Mellor had paid on the school district's claim, \$361.67, when he entered the law office of Joel Scott on Dec. 30, 1889. His own assets were only his household goods and seven dollars in cash. (The general store of Mellor and Pyke, which also sold furniture, had gone down in the crash.) A lawsuit dragged in the courts, to be finally dismissed in 1898, at the request of voters at the annual school District No. 1 meeting.

On June 30, 1902, at the annual school meeting, Mr. Mellor paid into the treasury of District No. 1, the amount remaining unpaid, \$1,353.29, although the debt was cancelled by the statute of limitations. (Northwestern, July 3, 1902). In a statement at the meeting, Mr. Mellor said that he had been tempted to leave the community, as others had done, but had "hung on" because of his faith and the encouragement of his friends. Resolutions of appreciation of the payment, legally outlawed, were passed. Mrs. Mellor told friends that evening, "This is the happiest day of my life".

The First National Bank of Loup City was organized Oct. 3, 1885, by George A. Post, Lee Love, A. P. Culley, and A. E. Charlton. All were originally from York, Nebraska. Lee Love was the brother-in-law of A. P. Culley, the cashier. It was reorganized as a state bank, the First Bank of Loup City, Jan. 21, 1890. Stockholders were Lee Love, A. P. Culley, E. P. Doe, Jesse Love (father of Lee Love and Minnie Love Culley), and Minnie Love Culley. It became a national bank again in 1912.

The first place of business was a small frame building which stood opposite the northwest corner of the public square, the present Township Library site. The Culley's at first lived in the rear of this building, which was later moved to the southwest corner opposite the square, its present location. The brick building was built in 1912. A. P. Culley was succeeded in the presidency of the bank by his nephew, W. F. Mason, in 1912.

Officers in 1932 were A. B. Outhouse, president; W. T. Chase, vice-president; C. H. Ryan, cashier, and L. B. Polski, assistant cashier. When the bank holiday of 1933 closed this bank with all others, the president A. B. Outhouse, personally interviewed federal officials at Kansas City, and by furnishing financial aid, secured the reopening of the bank within three weeks. Present officers are A. R. Owens, president; C. C. Ryan, vice-president; F. A. Ryan, cashier.

The Farmers State Bank of Loup City was incorporated Jan. 4, 1889. The incorporation articles, signed at Arcadia, Nebr., listed J.

Phil Jaeger, William Schaedla, A. F. Ramsey and H. E. Curtis as organizers. This bank was a county depository in January, 1894, with J. Phil Jaeger, W. G. and C. J. Odendahl and Wm. Schaedla bondsmen. (Misc. Rec. II, 424). It was placed in voluntary liquidation March 23, 1900, and surrendered its charter for cancellation Apr. 2, 1900, with no loss to depositors. (State Banking Department, March 3, 1952).

The Loup City Building and Loan Association was incorporated Jan. 18, 1888. Its capital stock was set at \$200,000.00, 100 shares at \$200.00 each. Peter Truelsen, Robert Taylor, W. H. Lalk, J. Phil. Jaeger, J. C. Edmonson, A. E. Charlton, C. J. Odendahl, and E. S. Hayhurst were directors. (Misc. Rec. I, 351).

The coming of the U. P. Railroad sent hopes soaring, and in 1889 the Sherman County Building and Loan Association was announced, with a capital stock of one million dollars, to be divided into 5000 shares of \$200.00 each. W. M. Walker, E. E. Whaley, J. W. Angier, E. Brewer, W. R. Mellor, W. H. Morris, were directors. These men, with C. M. Walworth, Walter Moon, and J. K. Pearson were incorporators. (Misc. Rec. I, p. 354).

The Loup City Building and Loan Association was a successful concern, according to newspaper reports. Profits on cash shares of \$6.60 were announced (on 419 shares), \$18.80 paid down, now worth \$25.40 per share. (Times, Jan., 1887). A year and a half later (June 14, 1888), they announced 422 shares of the old series, and 300 more to be issued.

When the Loup City Building and Loan Association published its report Jan. 5, 1890, A. J. B. Fairburn was treasurer, J. F. Simpson, E. S. Hayhurst, J. S. Pedler, C. Landers, C. J. Odendahl, W. H. Morris, and G. W. Hunter were directors. (The Sherman County Bank had closed Dec. 26, 1888, Whaley and Theiss had been officials in it.) Reports published through 1892 and '93 continued, showing that the business still functioned, despite the fact that the drouth was on.

The Loup City State Bank was organized August 12, 1904, by C. P. Hansen, T. J. Hansen, and C. W. Fletcher. In January, 1906, officers were E. G. Taylor, president; J. S. Pedler, vice-president; C. C. Carlson, cashier; and W. R. Mellor, J. W. Long, and S. N. Sweetland, directors. A two-story brick building, located opposite the southwest corner of the courthouse square, was built in 1907. This bank closed Nov. 15, 1929. The liquidation process ended May 20, 1936. Total payments were 23.9 per cent.

The American State Bank was organized March 25, 1919, by stockholders W. S. Price, Laura M. Beach, W. C. Wicks, Jos. Davis, D. A. Beach, and John C. Sievers. In 1921 a two-story brick building, located across the street south of the First National Bank, was built. Officers in 1920 were Wm. Lewandowski, president; Chris Zwink, vice-president; D. A. Beach, cashier. This bank closed Febr. 25, 1933. Percentage of payment was 58 per cent.

The bank of Ashton was organized Jan. 1, 1888, by H. Smelser, Lee Love, and A. P. Culley. (Misc. Rec. I, 592), incorporated April 2, 1888. In 1900 A. P. Culley sold his interest to I. M. Polski. This bank

was taken over by the State Department of Banking on Nov. 25, 1929. A judicial receiver was appointed Febr. 3, 1930. The total disbursement was 56.9 per cent, final payment being made July 27, 1934.

The Ashton State Bank was incorporated Jan. 20, 1907, by Joseph Jankowski, Frank X. Badura, and A. C. Wichman. Present officers are: S. E. Badura, president; F. A. Badura, vice-president; Peter I. Badura, cashier; A. F. Jankowski, assistant cashier. These men are all cousins, according to county treasurer Norbert Kalkowski, 'also a cousin.

(Information on banks from State Department of Banking, Apr. 4, 1951).

The People's State Bank of Litchfield was organized Jan. 12, 1892 by A. T. Nichols, H. Bass, Adolph Kangsen, Jr., and R. Whitmore. As a depository for county funds, bond was signed by these, also Wm. A. D. Steinbeck, Henry Lewis, Felix Eckhout, Sam'l H. Robinson, Wm. H. Chapman, and Mary J. Whitmore. H. Bass was president, A. T. Nichols, cashier. (Misc. Rec. II, 210.) The bank closed its doors Febr. 28, 1895. There had been a withdrawal of deposits, perhaps due to a rumor that counterfeiting operations were being carried on in the nearby mill. John E. Mellett was appointed receiver, and took charge April 5, 1895. At this time the assets were estimated to be \$24,988.08.

Because Sherman County had on deposit in the bank \$4,942.38, a series of lawsuits followed. Nichols was charged with accepting deposits when the bank was insolvent. A compromise was effected (Sup. Rec. IV, p. 200), in regard to the county's settlement. Sherman County acquired 40 acres of land in 35-14-16, known as the Kangsen forty, which they rented for some years. Mr. Nichols was later tried on charges of transferring property to avoid total personal loss. The suits, which dragged until Oct. 1901, were finally thrown out of court.

The Litchfield State Bank was organized Jan. 4, 1894, with John Terhune president, and James Slote, D. W. Titus, F. L. Grammer, E. W. Noyes, Joseph Grammer, and A. D. Norling as stockholders. Terhune, Titus and F. L. Grammer, were directors. (Misc. Rec. II, 412-414). It became The First National Bank of Litchfield on April 12, 1906, at a special meeting of stockholders. A receiver took charge on Dec. 29, 1933. It ended May 17, 1938, after the payment of dividends totalling 56.55 per cent. (Compt. of Currency, Washington, D. C., April 19, 1951).

The State Bank of Litchfield was organized July 14, 1914, with M. B. Myers, B. H. Schaberg and I. M. Schaberg stockholders. (Misc. Rec. VI, 664). It was taken over by the State Department of Banking Oct. 2, 1928. Liquidation was through an administrative receiver, discharged May 9, 1938. The total dividend distribution was 35 per cent. (Dep't of Banking, April 4, 1951).

A Cooperative Credit Association was organized at Litchfield in Jan. 1935. (Monitor, Jan. 11, 1935). Officers were A. L. Arnett, president) Chas. Given, vice-president; H. I. Lang, secretary. Officers in

1948 were A. L. Arnett, president; P. E. Chipps and Carl Halbeisen, supervisory committee, and H. I. Lang, secretary-treasurer.

The Farmer's State Bank of Hazard was organized Sept. 4, 1919, by W. F. Sanders, C. A. Rydberg, Carl E. Peters, Seth H. Richmond, and Fred Rasmussen, stockholders. (Misc. Rec. VII, 140). It opened for business Sept. 27, 1919. Cornerstone of the new bank building was laid by the Odd Fellows in February, 1920. It was taken over by the Department of Banking June 28, 1927, and operated under this supervision for nearly eighteen months. The administrative receiver was discharged Sept. 29, 1931. Final dividend payments amounted to 63.9 per cent.

The Hazard State Bank was organized April 29, 1907, by D. W. Titus, H. L. Terhune and F. L. Grammer. (Misc. Rec. VI, 231). The State Department of Banking took over its operation Aug. 21, 1933. Total dividend payments amounted to 53.5 per cent when the administrative receiver was discharged May 15, 1937.

There was a newspaper reference to L. C. Kranz, cashier of a bank at Rockville, in February, 1887.

The Rockville State Bank was organized June 1, 1905, with P. Jensen, W. Woten, J. A. Woten, and N. Jensen incorporators of the \$10,000.00 institution. (Misc. Rec. V, 430). Later officers were E. M. Dwehus, president, and H. Ericksen, John Isaacson, M. Jensen, Carl F. Nelson, and P. Jensen stockholders. It was taken over by the Department of Banking Oct. 10, 1933. Total dividends paid were 85.2 per cent. The administrative receiver was discharged Dec. 19, 1933. (Dep't of Banking, Apr. 4, 1933).

The Farmers State Bank of Rockville was organized Sept. 4, 1919. (Misc. Rec. 9, 164). Capitalized at \$25,000.00, its stockholders were W. F. McDonald, A. F. Nielsen, S. E. Sorensen, Victor Sorensen, Hans Sorensen, and Hans Johnson. The stockholders took appropriate action by adopting a resolution June 30, 1928, to place the bank in voluntary liquidation. It discontinued operation July 15, 1938. The voluntary liquidation was completed August 27, 1938, in accordance with statutory provisions. (Dep't of Banking, Apr. 4, 1951).

In 1952 there are two banks in Sherman County, the First National Bank of Loup City and the Ashton State Bank of Ashton, with a cooperative credit association at Litchfield.

CHAPTER XIV

FINANCIAL HISTORY OF SHERMAN COUNTY

Sherman County was organized when its first election was held April 1, 1873. The first entry in the Commissioner's Record was dated June 28, 1873. On August 11, 1873, it was moved

that a 4 mill levy be made to pay interest on \$25,000 in bonds issued by Sherman County for improvements—deliver to C. B. Smith \$40,000.00 in Sherman County bonds, \$4,000.00 to John Harkins, and \$2,000.00 to M. A. Hartley.

On Aug. 23, 1873, the county treasurer recalled the bonds in the hands of the C. W. Dake bank at Kearney Junction, and a tax was levied to pay the interest on the \$25,000 bond issue. November 15 of the same year bondholders were offering seventy-five cents on the dollar.

Sherman County indebtedness on Jan. 6, 1874, was \$35,304.14. \$5,000 additional in bonds was voted that day. On Jan. 24, 1874 it was voted "to lay before Hamer and Connor (law firm of Kearney) the exact condition of the school districts of the county." (p. 24).

A special election was ordered to decide on "funding the floating debt of the county, to run for 15 years, with 10 per cent interest." On Oct. 24, 1874, E. S. Atkinson resigned as county clerk, having refused to pay the coupons of bonds held by C. W. Dake of Kearney and Koutze Bros., of New York at 60 cents on the dollar. It was decided to issue \$2,500.00 in bonds, to pay for rebuilding the courthouse, which had burned Nov. 1, 1873 (bonds to run 10 years at 10 per cent), and to fund the county debt through C. W. Dake. The courthouse bonds carried, but there was a disagreement among the commissioners on their issuance, Harkins and Baker for, Mathews against. (Comm. Rec. I, 21 ff.)

On Jan. 7, 1875 T. N. Johnson, who had succeeded Baker as commissioner, was to go to Kearney to secure the services of a district attorney in examining the records. His expenses were to be paid by private subscription. An "illegal" tax levy of 1874 was set aside on Jan. 31. (Ibid. 31). The B and M Railroad was at this time refusing payment of taxes on its land holdings, partly because of levies made illegally (Hunnewell v. Sherman County, U. S. District Court, 252D). At this time the county treasurer's books were missing. Railroad bonds for the benefit of the Sioux City and Kearney Junction Railroad were to be voted, together with bonds to fund the floating indebtedness of the county, at a special election Nov. 29, 1875. Since the railroad did not build, those bonds were not issued. (Comm. Rec. I, 54, 55).

In June, 1875, the commissioners had ordered, "since people can't pay taxes, the county clerk will delay collection until after harvest." Also, the county clerk was to publish a financial statement of the county. The 11th Legislative Session had voted that the counties of Colfax, Platte, Antelope, Howard, Greeley, and Sherman might issue bonds for funding warrants to run for five years. (Comm. Rec. I, 60).

County indebtedness was reported to be \$36,879.75 on Jan. 5, 1876. Seventy bonds of \$500 each, and 84 of \$100 each, bearing 10 per cent interest, were to be issued. Publication of county board proceedings was requested by twenty petitioners, headed by Alfred Brown (Dec. 4, 1876). (Comm. Rec. I, 145).

The bond issue of School Dist. No. 1 was cited by the B&M Railroad in their long fight (1873-78) against taxes in Sherman County. They stated (*Hunnewell v. Sherman Co.*, 252D), that the district had been improperly organized and therefore they were not obliged to recognize its taxing power. The dispute with the county was settled in 1878, when the railroad paid the county \$1200.00, deposited in the Capitol National Bank, Lincoln, which money was to be used to rebuild the courthouse. They also deeded to the county the half section of 35-16-15, since known as the "poor farm", or county farm.

However, when payment to the contractor, John Harkins, was to be made, he was ordered to draw from funds with Peter Truelsen (there was no bank in the county). Fred Stine, one of the three commissioners, on Oct. 28, 1878, proposed that a committee of three, "be appointed to investigate the amount and legality of the debt of Sherman County and all school districts." (Comm. Rec. I, 211, 220, 248). The committee appointed consisted of Aaron Wall, John Harkins, and H. A. Gladding. On Jan. 25, 1879, the Sherman County board sent word to a Mr. Newman, suing the county, that they "would pay as fast as they could". (Comm. Rec. I, 278).

Now occurred a question concerning the books of County Treasurer Hale, (Comm. Rec. I, 418). His bondsmen, C. E. Webster, W. H. Stephens, N. B. Thompson, P. Truelsen, N. D. Vancsoy, and C. H. French, were asked to make good. The county clerk was instructed to publish a statement of C. W. Dake (309), that C. A. Hale had deposited monies in his bank and refused interest on the same. A special election, July 2, 1884, voted \$50,000.00 at 6 per cent for 20 years to refund the debt.

It was necessary for the county to issue bonds in its beginning, to pay for roads and bridges, but because of the rate of interest, the county levy to redeem the bonds meant that it was paying many times over the original amount. Some bonds were issued fraudulently, and there was always the possibility that forgotten certificates of indebtedness might appear. When this occurred in 1912, County Treasurer Henry told the executors of an early-day county official's estate that there was no authorization for payment, hence refused. This action drew commendation from the Times editor. (Times, Aug. 1, 1912).

The state legislature recognized the situation as early as 1875, when it acknowledged that "the law permitting unrestrained freedom on the part of school districts to issue bonds has proved well-nigh disastrous." (Senate Journal, 1875, p. 43).

The scandal of school bonds in Sherman County lay not only in their issuing, but in the fighting of school construction. It was understood that if a contractor appeared with material to build a school-

house, he might be told to remove it (with a ten dollar bribe), or the material might be burned. It was reliably stated that one farmer moved into the log schoolhouse built on his land, after he had granted a plot for its site.

Whatever happened, the bonds of eleven school districts in Sherman County eventually reached the hands of some one who sued. These cases were carried to the Nebraska Supreme Court and United States District Court. By the time this occurred the district had been subdivided, but districts cut off from the original ones which were bonded, had to make levies to assist in discharging the obligation. Phrases such as "evident conspiracy to defraud" were used in court decisions. The editor of the St. Paul Press went unrebuked when he noted that

"Sherman County bonds have been declared worthless—another in the long list of swindles—releases the county of \$60,000.00 in principal and interest—capitalists will learn to take Sherman County paper on the half-shell." St. Paul Press, Febr. 9, 1881.

County Treasurer Wilson had difficulties, when sureties protested his placing money in the county safe. Sheriff Saltus took possession of the office, until the commissioners appointed first C. E. Achenbach (July 25, 1885), then J. K. Pearson, treasurer (March, 1886). (Comm. Rec. II, 56, 104).

The failure of the Sherman County Banking Company in 1888, again endangered county deposits, although county treasurer Pearson was given first chance at the available assets. (Dec. 26, 1888). J. N. Paul of St. Paul was employed to tell the county how to proceed. \$85,000.00 worth of bonds for the benefit of the Omaha and Republican Valley Railroad had been voted in 1885. Just at this time suits against school districts were being decided, with additional levies required. The Northwestern became a reform spokesman, which placed the Times and its editor, O. B. Willard, on the defensive. Out of this situation, in part, came the shooting of Willard by Richardson.

With the failure of the Sherman County Bank and the county's loss, the Farmers' Alliance protested any proposed settlement. Mr. Pearson conveyed all his property, amounting to \$30,000.00, to make restitution. Some of the trouble seems to have been due to careless bookkeeping. It was found that Pearson's predecessors had failed to cancel paid taxes. (Comm. Rec. II, 427). A. J. B. Fairburn finished Pearson's term as county treasurer.

Out of this confusion came a demand for the township-supervisor form of government to replace the existing commissioner type. The argument advanced was that three commissioners were too easily swayed. (Comm. Rec. II, 290, 311).

Another bank failure, that of the People's State Bank of Litchfield, in 1895, affected county deposits. However, since the board of supervisors had permitted the deposit, the county treasurer was not held liable. The county did receive the "Kangsen forty," in 35-15-16. (Ibid. 466).

In the hard times accompanying the drouth of the '90's, this tax levy for old county indebtedness proved burdensome, and the county

fought it. The late J. P. Leininger, Sr., related an incident which occurred when he was supervisor (Interview, Aug. 16, 1941):

I had gone into the First Bank at Loup City to see Mr. A. P. Culley about seed. (Mr. Culley furnished seed, only requiring that it be returned). Mr. Culley was in conversation with a stranger. I heard him say, "No, it may not be right, but this county can't stand any more." I went home that night and slept soundly, for if Mr. Culley had encouraged bondholders, and they had continued the suit, I felt it would ruin the county. Now I felt sure the county would make it.

County warrants were worth 100 cents on the dollar by 1894. (Times, Jan. 5, 1894).

A summary of county indebtedness, made in 1910: 1875, \$25,000; 1876, \$43,000; 1884, \$112,000; 1886, \$50,000; 1889, \$89,000; 1910, \$74,000. In 1897 it was reported that \$38,000 had been paid on the county debt of \$147,000 and that the interest was being kept up.

The Times, Jan. 7, 1909, reported that the county's indebtedness of \$75,900 was in bonds bearing 4½ per cent interest, with 14 years yet to run. To reduce interest payments, a levy of 15 mills on old indebtedness was advised; the returns on such a levy for three years would save the county money.

On Nov. 24, 1910, the Times reported that Sherman County would issue bonds to replace those due Nov. 27; \$60,000.00 at 4½ per cent interest. They would be retired \$5,000 at a time, and by 1916 the county should be nearly out of debt.

Mr. Hiyo Aden, appointed supervisor at this time, came to the conclusion that instead of waiting, there should be a payment as soon as \$1,000.00 was accumulated. He told the state treasurer that the interest rate was too high. The reply was, that a change would be made by the state, if it could avoid a law-suit over the payment of the bonds. (Interview, Nov. 9, 1951).

Sherman County, in interest on bonds, law-suits and other expenses paid its early debts many times. Because of the discount on county warrants, a higher price was charged than otherwise would have been asked. One bridge contractor said that his policy during those years was to charge for two days' work while doing one, because of the discount and the length of time elapsing before payment.

With this long experience in debt, Sherman County finally came to a pay-as-you-go policy. When the present court-house was built, a sinking fund levy made possible payment as it was built.

At present the county has no indebtedness. (County Treasurer, March 4, 1952). The 1951 levy of Sherman County: General, 3.08 mills; Bridge Fund, .39; Road Fund, .53; Relief Fund, .54; Fair Fund, .11; County Assistance Fund, .19; total county levy, 4.84 mills.

CHAPTER XV

THE COURTHOUSE AND COURT HISTORY

1. The Courthouse

At a special meeting of the county commissioners on June 28, a \$40,000.00 bond issue was ordered submitted to the voters of the county, for "a bridge across the Middle Loup River and smaller streams and the erection of a county courthouse." (Comm. Rec. I, p. 1). This bond amount was reduced to \$25,000.00 on July 7, with \$5,000.00 for the courthouse. These courthouse bonds were issued August 30, but on Sept. 23, 1873, the courthouse bonds in the hands of C. W. Dake of Kearney were recalled.

The contract to erect the building was let on Oct. 22 to Martin W. Benschoter and Frank Ingram, but in February of 1874 this contract was rescinded and a new one let, to the Benschoter Brothers. The building was to be located in the center of the courthouse block, Block 2, original town.

Construction proceeded during the summer of 1874. George Benschoter, son of Wm. Benschoter, a boy of fifteen, later told how he packed brick and mixed mortar, driving a team of spotted, long-horned Cherokee oxen, Buck and Bright. That fall he had typhoid fever, and in his delirium constantly "Gee—Hawed" Buck and Bright, and cracked a "masterly whip" over them. Walter Moon was the head carpenter in charge of the work. In November Walter Moon and C. E. Rosseter had been appointed to estimate the cost of furnishing the building. It burned the very day the commissioners were to have accepted it, it is said. No one knew whether the fire was an accident, or of incendiary origin.

The commissioners offered Benschoter Brothers \$1,250.00 in warrants to rebuild the courthouse. A special election was held on Dec. 5, 1874, when \$2,500.00 in bonds was voted to rebuild. By this time there was much litigation regarding the county indebtedness, which included "interest bonds". On Jan. 7, 1875, Thos. N. Johnson, one of the three commissioners, was appointed to go to Columbus to secure the services of the United States District attorney for the purpose of examining the records. (Mathews and S. Hancock, the other commissioners). Expenses were to be paid by popular subscription.

Benschoter Brothers entered into a new contract for rebuilding the courthouse on Febr. 19, 1875. Controversy about railroad, school district and county bonds continued. Nothing was done about the courthouse. On April 19, 1878, it was decided to have John W. Harkins rebuild the old courthouse. Its walls had been left standing, and there Aaron Wall had stabled his stock during the winter of 1877-78. The burning of a thatch roof over it in the spring ended that accommodation.

The county board had decided (March 23, 1878), to use the \$1,200.00 received from the Burlington to rebuild the courthouse. By July 20,

1878, the commissioners accepted the courthouse as far as it was rebuilt. Harkins was to draw from the funds held by Peter Truelsen, \$900.00, and the balance from the B. and M. funds. In October Reuben French repaired the courthouse well, while a contract for 12 cords of wood went to Chas. H. French, at \$6.00 a cord.

The rebuilt courthouse retained the first tan brick walls, with a stone facing on the brick walls. On the first floor were four office rooms, while on the second was a courtroom reached first by an inside staircase. Later, for need of space, the staircase was moved outside. In 1884 M. A. Hartley planted trees around the square.

This second building stood until 1920. The courtroom was not large enough for important court hearings, which took place in the Opera House or in the Massasoit House, although in 1878 it was large enough for dances. The commissioners were obliged to prohibit the holding of dances there, and threaten prosecution of parties violating the order. Church and Sunday School meetings were held there until the Methodist and Catholic Churches were built.

Because of the fact that the brick walls of the first completed courthouse had undergone a fire in 1874, the walls were later white-washed. From the time the first trees were planted around the square in 1884, the county board was always careful to have the dead trees replaced and new ones planted. Fences of various sorts surrounded the square; hay was often cut there. As the trees grew, they hid the "Cracker-box", as some district judges called it. When Columnist A. L. Bixby visited Loup City in 1910 he remarked that he knew why the trees were so thick and so tall,—to hide the building. As the years went by, it required more support and became visibly unsafe.

It was impossible to house all the offices there, hence the county superintendent, county judge and other offices were in rented quarters, generally near the square. One facetious suggestion was made that a sod lean-to be erected; later there was talk of building on a two-room addition. Finally, the matter of a new building was considered.

Petitions for special election to consider the voting of \$70,000.00 in bonds for a new county courthouse were filed with the county supervisors on March 18, 1914. On May 19, 1914, 23 petitions were presented, asking that the special election be held not later than Sept. 12, 1914. The county board considered calling a special election on June 30, 1914, to vote \$75,000.00 in 4½ per cent bonds for the erection of a courthouse and jail. Both these attempts having failed, petitions were filed asking that the county board make a levy of 25 mills on the dollar for 5 years, with no levy greater than 5 mills at any time. These petitions were signed by 55 per cent of the voters. The board ordered this levy made on August 22, 1915. (Sup. Pros. Vi, 172, 193, 322). When it was discovered that the 5-mill levy would not produce the required amount, the board ordered submitted at a special election Nov. 7, 1919, a proposal to make a special levy for the courthouse for three years. Results of the election were 961 for, 544 against. The levy of five mills was continued.

Contract for the new courthouse was let April 5, 1920 to John Ohlsen and Sons, of Loup City. Clifford Hale had the electrical con-

tract; John A. Anderson and Co., Hastings, heating and plumbing; the Pauley Jail Company, jail and cells.

To accommodate officials housed in the courthouse a store building on Main Street was rented, the jail was used as an office, and a temporary building (40x24) was erected on the grounds for the treasurer and clerk. All concerned were willing to undergo temporary discomfort for the sake of a new building. R. D. Hendrickson and J. H. Lee demolished the old building, with John Ohlsen's buying the brick. Much merriment was occasioned by the alleged finding of a jug, corked and sealed, in one corner of the old building.

The cornerstone bears the inscription:

Laid by
Excelsior Lodge
No. 166, I.O.O.F.
Loup City, Nebr.
1920

W. O. Brown, Chairman
W. H. Hancock
Wenzel Rewolinski
E. F. Kozel
G. W. Brammer
F. T. Richmond
Chas. Quartz
Dan McDonald, County Clerk

Dedication ceremonies were held Oct. 8, 1921, with Judge Aaron Wall and the Rev. J. V. Bandy speakers. It was a perfect autumn day for the 4000 who attended the exercises. The building of tan brick, with terra cotta trim, was up-to-date and modern in every respect. Stanley Jarmarek, who had worked on the building, began work as janitor on Sept. 15, 1921. He remained in this position until his death in 1946, taking unbounded pride in the care of the buildings and grounds. He was succeeded by Peter Pruss. Because of the levy begun in 1916, the building was soon paid for (estimated cost, \$102,640.00). Coal furnace heat was replaced by natural gas in 1949. The grounds were landscaped after completion of the building. The city's electric siren stands in a steel tower on the west side of the grounds.

A German cannon of World War I, secured by the Loup City Commercial Club in 1924, stood on a cement platform at the left of the entrance, until World War II. At that time it was given by the supervisors to The Loup City American Legion Post, who disposed of it as scrap iron.

Inscribed over the main entrance (south) are the words from Lincoln's Gettysburg address:

that government of the people,
by the people, for the people,
shall not perish from the earth.

2. Sherman County's Court Record

The first murder in Sherman County was the shooting of E. D. Chapman by George McKellar, of Valley County, on Febr. 28, 1877. Chapman lived on his homestead, in 6-16-15, in northwestern Sherman County, while McKellar lived across the line, in 26-17-16, in Valley County. McKellar, reputedly an ill-tempered cripple, with a wooden leg, lived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John McKellar, whose homestead joined that of their son. Chapman, a Civil War veteran, entered

his claim Jan. 26, 1874, having come from Iowa, it was said, in response to a call for a blacksmith.

The two men had quarreled, one story said, because of a blacksmith bill; another alleged over the price of a pig. Benschoter says that McKellar was playing cards in a small grocery about where the Schoening blacksmith shop now stands, when Chapman entered and asked for some tea. When McKellar heard Chapman's voice he jumped up, levelled his revolver at Chapman, and fired.

Chapman lived for two days. Before the crowd could move, McKellar mounted his horse and rode away. Sheriff R. J. Brown and several deputies went to the McKellar farm, but although they watched for several days, were unable to discover McKellar's hiding place. The father and mother were arrested on the charge of having secreted the murderer, but the charge was not proved. The county offered \$500.00 for the apprehension of the murderer. (Benschoter, Book of Facts, 13-15; Comm. Rec. I, 147, March 5, 1877).

On the morning of March 7, 1877, McKellar's father, with his son on the wagon seat beside him, rode into the yard of the farmstead of R. J. Brown, county sheriff, south of Loup City. The Browns had gone to the home of a neighbor, leaving their 17-year old niece, Carrie Gillette, with her young cousin, Sim Brown, at home. Carrie directed the father to the neighbor's, seated the prisoner inside the door, and prepared to meet the crowd she could see coming from town. (No trees hindered the view). She acknowledged that McKellar was there, but told them she was alone, so no move was made to take the prisoner. He remained at the Brown home that night. Mrs. Carrie Gillette Brown recalled that her young cousin, Sim, had crawled under the bed when strangers came, and that she and her aunt slept together with their clothes on that night. (Interview, Jan. 5, 1950).

Next day, it was decided that the prisoner was to remain at the home of his parents, since the county had no jail. (Central Nebraska Press, May 3, 1877). McKellar was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment May 31, 1877. (Dist. Court Journal, I, p. 16-26). The hiding place until his father surrendered his son, was a matter of much speculation. One story stated that he had hidden in the hollow of the "big tree" on the banks of the Middle Loup River near Arcadia.

The second case of interest in Sherman County grew out of the hanging of Mitchell and Ketchum, two homesteaders of Custer County, by the "Olive gang", Texas cattlemen, on Dec. 10, 1878. (Dist. Court Journal, I, p. 44). The quarrel was over the alleged stealing of cattle from the herd of the Olives, by Mitchell and Ketchum.

The Olives, I. P. (Prentice), "Bob", and Ira, brought herds from Williamson County, Texas, to Nebraska in 1876. Headquarters were at Plum Creek, (now Lexington), with ranch headquarters in the neighborhood of Callaway, in Custer County. The herds grazed along the Loup and Dismal Rivers. There were said to have been herds of the Olives on Clear Creek, extending into southwestern Sherman County, in Buffalo County, around Kearney, and in Valley County.

Luther Mitchell and Ami Ketchum had built a "double" soddy,

one half on one's claim and half on the other's. (Stein and Friedel did the same thing in southeastern Sherman County). Mitchell's wife had two daughters by a previous marriage, Tamar Snow, aged sixteen, and a twelve-year old sister. Ketchum, a young man of twenty-four, was engaged to Tamar Snow. It was said that before the trouble Ketchum and Tamar Snow had attended a dance on Clear Creek, where W. R. Hodges, a Sherman County settler, was the "fiddler" of the evening. Hodges told them that the Olive's suspected Mitchell and Ketchum of "rustling" their cattle, but Ketchum declined to be frightened. Some time later, one of the cowboys of the Olives, with a group, appeared at Mitchell's blacksmith shop, to ask about help for a footsore pony. Seemingly Mitchell and Ketchum were fearful, and when "Bob" and "Prent" Olive returned, firing began. Bob Olive, (alias Stevens) was fatally wounded, but firing continued until Ketchum was shot in the arm.

The Olives withdrew, crossing Sherman County, along Clear Creek and Moon Creek, and on to Kearney with Bob Olive's body in a wagon. The Moon and Knight families, living on Moon Creek, saw the procession as it passed enroute to Kearney, from which place the body was shipped to Williamson County, Texas.

Mitchell, an old soldier, with his family and Ketchum, started for their former home in Merrick County, but stopped at Loup City to consult Aaron Wall, county judge. According to Benschoter's Book of Facts (pp. 18-23), Wall sent them to the sod house of "Jim" Snyder, four miles southwest of Loup City. When the Olive "gang" came for Aaron Wall that night, he is said to have slipped away, ridden to the Snyder "soddy", and directed Mitchell and Ketchum to a school-house in Howard County, where his brother John Wall, was teaching. John Wall sent them to the home of John R. Baker, who left his house.

I. P. Olive had offered a reward of \$700.00 for the arrest of Mitchell and Ketchum. Sheriffs of neighboring counties, Crew of Howard and Gillan of Keith, traced Mitchell and Ketchum to the Baker homestead. They were lodged in jail at Kearney, Nebraska.

Olive refused to pay the ransom until the men were in Custer County. Sheriff Gillan placed the two men on a west-bound emigrant train, Dec. 10, 1878. They were taken off at Plum Creek (Lexington), driven in wagons to a canyon five miles southwest of Callaway, hanged, shot, the bodies burned. Sheriff Gillan, from Texas as were the Olive's, was afterward indicted for complicity in the murder of Mitchell and Ketchum, but escaped from the Kearney jail before the end of his trial. (Nebraska History Magazine, Apr.-June, 1947, Vol. XXVIII, No. 2, p. 102).

The indictment of the "Olive gang" for the murder of Mitchell and Ketchum was filed in Sherman County. (Dist. Court Journal, I, 15). It named I. P. Olive, Wm. H. Green, John Baldwin, Frederick Fisher, Bion Brown, Barney J. Gillen, Pedro Dominicus, and Dennis Gartrell, "for fastening to a tree—with a rope the value of around 5c, on Dec. 10, 1878". The trial was held in Hastings, Nebraska, with District Judge James Gaslin presiding. On April 16, 1878, I. P. Olive

and Fred Fisher were found guilty of murder in the second degree, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Olive's parents came from Texas, and steps were immediately taken to have a re-trial. O. P. Mason of Nebraska City undertook the case for the Olive's, secured a reversal on the grounds that the trial had not been held in the proper jurisdiction. Now the trial was held in Custer County, which had been organized in 1877. Judge E. J. Bobbitt found no witnesses against the two, and they were freed.

Of interest to Sherman County citizens is the fact that Oscar Bechthold's father, Lewis Bechtold, with John Swain, Ben Snyder, and others, went to the burial spot of Mitchell and Ketchum, where they disinterred the bodies, which were photographed, then taken to Kearney for burial.

Judge Aaron Wall's brother, William Wall, afterward married Tamar Snow, step-daughter of Mitchell, and lived in Valley County. Her sister married a Mr. Gipe. Aaron Wall's step-son, George Brill, had ridden as a cowboy with "Bob" Olive, or "Stevens" as he was known.

Aaron Wall had had a "brush" with the Olive's in April, 1878, when Jim Roberts, of Beaver Creek was arrested by the Olive's for cattle stealing. The warrant was sworn in the court of Captain Hutchinson, a Justice of the Peace. Aaron Wall was employed as counsel for defense, but unable to get a fair hearing, he managed to get Roberts into his buggy, and drove to Loup City. Mrs. Roberts followed to say that the Olives were coming, with a warrant from the same court for Wall's arrest. Wall was lured outside his house, and spent much time bickering with his would-be captors. When they attempted to throw a rope over his head, he used his pen-knife to ward off the rope, then cut the vest of the man who seized him.

Finally Wall agreed to go with them if an officer of Sherman County and a number of citizens went along. He sent for deputy sheriff Reuben French, went to the court-room (then located on the second floor of the Massasoit House, a hotel which stood on the present site of the Loup City State Bank building, Dinsdale's), and pretended to fill out some blanks for which he used the county seal. When French arrived, he commanded him to call court and arrest the Olives for contempt. A messenger had been sent for Martin Brunbaugh, who arrived with others, including John Harkins, a contractor, carrying his sledge hammer. A stranger slipped a revolver into the judge's pocket. Brunbaugh was deputized to arrest the offenders, which he did. Wall as county judge then levied fines of thirty dollars against "Bob" Olivé, one of twenty dollars, and three of ten dollars each, against the others. They left with the promise to pay the fines if allowed to go. The fines are still unpaid. (Book of Facts, pp. 15-18).

Wall had lived a year at Sweetwater, on the south county line, before coming to Loup City, where he had undoubtedly had contacts with the operations of the Olive's and their herds.

Sherman County and the "Doc" Middleton Gang

William Baillie charges Guynelittle on Dec. 28, 1878—
stole a Colt's revolver valued at \$20.00. Defendant must pay—
or stay in jail". C. H. E. Heath and T. S. Nightingale, attorney's

for plaintiff; for defendant, himself. Probate Judge's Docket, I. p. 83.

This entry refers to an episode described by George Benschoter in His Book of Facts, pp. 26-29, entitled "Guynelittle and the Middleton Gang." According to the story, "Doc" Middleton, then a noted horse thief, sent to Loup City "Guynelittle", who posed as a capitalist looking for land investments and manufacturing sites. He boarded with Miss Ellen Baillie, who managed the hotel over the store owned by her brother, Wm. Baillie, the postmaster. (It later became the Massasoit House.)

To become better acquainted, Guynelittle arranged for a grand ball and free supper. Miss Baillie agreed to furnish the supper for 75 cents per couple. The dance was to take place in the warehouse adjoining the east side of the store, with everyone invited. Guynelittle arranged for Mr. Pence, the violinist, and his "second", to furnish the music, the price \$10.00.

Fifty couples enjoyed the supper. During the dance, Guynelittle would enter the store, take from the shelves boxes of candy, and tell Mr. Baillie he would pay the bill in the morning.

About two o'clock in the morning "Guyme" said he would dance a "break-down". He left the floor to "black up", suggesting that a quadrille be danced in his absence. After the third quadrille, a search was made, and it was discovered that the "jig" dancer was missing, with a fine pair of shoes and a Colt revolver. Miss Baillie was out \$50.00, the violinist, \$10.00. (G. had insisted on a supper price of \$1.00 per couple).

On Jan. 3, 1879, Mr. Baillie swore out the warrant, which was placed in the hands of Wm. Benschoter, deputy sheriff. At Kearney it was learned that a man answering Guynelittle's description was aboard an east-bound train, which was stopped west of Kearney. Deputy sheriff Lou Johnson of Buffalo County went aboard, engaged Guynelittle in conversation, and on pretext of having in jail at Kearney some one G. was searching for, shut him in a cell.

Next morning at the trial at Loup City Judge Wall fined Guynelittle \$50.00, and costs, with a jail sentence the alternative. G. was in charge of Bailiff Jacob Winkleman, who lived in a log house with the one room jail attached. Suspicious characters appeared, which caused the citizens to fear a raid by Middleton's gang.

The night of Jan. 25, 1879, eighteen Loup City citizens went to the bridge south of town, to meet the raiders. Among them were T. S. Nightingale, C. J. Odendahl, Aaron Wall, Wm. Baillie, W. H. Lalk, E. G. Kriechbaum, Chas. Waite, C. H. E. Heath, M. A. Hartley, Dan Brumbaugh. About one o'clock something slowly approaching the bridge caused Dan Brumbaugh to fire, the guards closed in, and captured David Furbush with his mule team, freighting for Lalk and Kriechbaum.

Guynelittle had served most of his term, when one day two well-armed strangers rode into a town with a warrant for him. It was afterwards suspected the raiders were from Doc Middleton's gang.

C. H. E. Heath, university-bred Englishman at that time editing the Sherman County Times, retold the story in verse, modelled upon Macauley's "Horatius at the Bridge". He used Latin names for the Loup City citizens, Nox Vento for Nightingale, Judex Murus for Judge Wall, Erica for himself. Its conclusion:

"With sounds of joy and laughter
The story will be told,
How Judex Murus held the bridge
In the brave days of old."

Sherman County lawyers always noted with interest the decision, "Smith vs. Smith", widely quoted in divorce cases for many years, because the principals had lived in Sherman County. J. Wood Smith and his wife Florence came to Loup City in 1878, where Smith engaged in real-estate business, and also had a store. There was one son Harry. (J. Wood Smith was a half brother of Laura Smith (Mrs. Henry Jenner), L. N. Smith and Edith Smith, who lived in Loup City for many years). (R. H. Mathew, Jan. 3, 1951)

On Dec. 11, 1882, Smith filed for a divorce in Salt Lake City, Utah Territory. It was granted on March 27, 1883, with the custody of the son awarded to the father. He married a second wife, Lotta, in Salt Lake City on April 17, 1883.

Mrs. Florence Smith filed a counter-petition for divorce. This was granted; the mother was awarded custody of the son, and \$6000.00 permanent alimony, to be paid in installments. J. Wood Smith appealed from this decision of the district court of Sherman County. The Nebraska State Supreme Court reduced the alimony from \$6000.00 to \$4000.00.

The part of the decision which was of importance to lawyers in similar lawsuits for many years was the statement that a divorce procured in territory when neither of the parties was resident was null and void, and that to give a court jurisdiction in an action for divorce, at least one of the parties must be a bona fide resident of the state or territory where the action was brought.

"An Editorial Tragedy"

This title was used by the Grand Island Independent of June 6, 1887, to describe the shooting of O. B. Willard, editor of the Sherman County Times, by B. L. Richardson, editor of the Northwestern, on May 28, 1887. It characterized the most widely known trial held in Sherman County, until the Mother Bloor trial in 1934.

O. B. Willard was editor of the first newspaper in Sherman County, the Sherman County News, an earlyday county clerk, and later editor of the Times. His wife, Alice, was the daughter of C. E. Rosseter, one of the founders of the county, at one time postmistress at Loup City, and associated with her husband in publishing the Times. In State politics Willard was well-known, identified with the faction of the Republican party known as "Stalwarts", sometimes referred to as the "Railroad Gang".

The opposition, known nationally as the "Mugwumps", were bent on reform. To accomplish this in Sherman County, they had hired Richardson, a young Vermonter, to edit the Northwestern. Inevitably

local controversies and personalities entered. The Grand Island Independent, May 21, 1887, noted

"a sweet-scented fight is now being carried on between the Loup City newspapers".

The Ord Quiz, May 30, 1887, described the situation:

Each paper has its friends, who, no doubt lent a willing hand and word to keep the newspaper war raging. The war drifted into a personal fight, in which the Times assailed the personal honor and integrity of Mr. Richardson, and which was met by equally telling strokes from the Northwestern against "Skip" Willard.

Willard was described as "one of the most affable of men, generous and good-natured, physically able to cuff the ears off two such men as Richardson; Richardson as "a small man, quiet and unobtrusive—neither noted for a quarrelsome disposition. (G. I. Daily Independent, May 30, 1887, Vol. 4, No. 28.)

In retaliation for a news item which seemed to slur a Loup City woman, her sister wrote a long poem reflecting on the Times editor. It was held by the editor of the Northwestern for over a year, then, following a bitter attack by the Times, was published in the Northwestern. Following publication of the poem, Willard, the Times editor, entered the barber-shop of A. L. Bennett, where Richardson sat in a chair. Willard struck Richardson with a lead stereotype plate used in printing, and seemingly reached for his hip pocket, having seized Richardson, a small man, around the neck.

Richardson drew a weapon he was carrying, shot Willard, who staggered to the door, and shot a second time. Willard fell, was carried across the street to the drugstore of W. T. Chase, where he died. Richardson was at once arrested, kept hidden one night, then taken to the Valley County jail at Ord, Nebraska.

Both sides at once raised purses for the expenses of the trial, which began on August 10, 1887. Because of the small size of the courtroom, proceedings were held in the Smith Opera House, north of the courthouse. District Judge J. G. Hamer presided. Joel R. Scott of Loup City was assisted by G. L. Lamberston of Lincoln in defense of Richardson. County attorney C. H. E. Heath had as aids O. P. Mason of Lincoln and A. H. Connor of Kearney. One requirement of attendance at the trial was that there be no guns other than those of the officials.

During the three months intervening between the shooting and the trial, partisans of both sides were active. Intimidation of witnesses was carried on to such an extent that one was given a ticket to Iowa and told to stay away until the trial was over. He was, however, brought back for the hearing.

The records of the trial, with its slow selection of jurors, may be seen in the court library. The editor of the Grand Island Daily Independent, who had continually demanded a fair trial, was barred from the court-room one morning, but soon gained entrance. He published a short-hand record of the trial each day. Many out-of-town spectators were present.

Contemporaries who attended the trial held the opinion that two items of evidence resulted in the verdict of "not guilty", on the grounds

of shooting in self-defense. One was the statement of Mrs. Willard identifying the lead plate with which her husband had struck Richardson. The second was the testimony of a customer whose son was receiving a hair-cut. The customer testified that Willard put his arm on Richardson's shoulder, and struck him with the plate. The claim that Willard had no gun on him was refuted.

Richardson left town soon after the trial, going to Colorado. George W. Benschoter after a short time assumed editorship of the North-western, and a year later bought Richardson's interest.

Mrs. Willard published the Times for some months, then sold to Brown and Grow. She went to Lincoln, studied telegraphy and shorthand, and had an interesting career. Contacting Frances E. Willard, a distant relative of her late husband, in Chicago, she became secretary to Lady Henry Somerset of England, active in temperance work. Later she was connected with various Republican campaigns in handling publicity. She wrote two books, one dedicated to a Chicago friend, Bertha Duppler Baur (Mrs. Jacob Baur) whose biography she titled "Our Own Lady". Although she lost her hearing, she worked in the office of clerk of the district court of Cook County, Illinois, for many years, enjoying a wide acquaintance among prominent people of Chicago. She died in 1936. (*Our Own Lady, a Sketch by Alice Rosseter Willard, P. F. Pettibone & Co., Chicago, 1931*).

At the time of the organization of Sherman County, and for a number of years following, it was customary for admission to the bar to follow two years' reading of law in the office of a practicing attorney, and appearance before a committee chosen by the court for examination. The fledgling lawyers had the time, as did their instructors, and although many such students did not practice law, the knowledge was undoubtedly of value.

An example is the application of John Wall and Edwin Coffin to practice law. They had studied in the office of a practicing attorney for two years, and were recommended by a committee: Aaron Wall, Francis G. Hamer and C. A. Ball of Kearney. (Dec. 1879). In 1882 Joel R. Scott, and R. J. Nightingale, were examined by Aaron Wall, F. G. Hamer and T. S. Nightingale. Others who were admitted to law practice by study in Sherman County law offices were A. M. Taylor, S. S. Wox, R. J. Wax, and J. A. Bradley (1886); George W. Hunter, J. S. Pedler, E. A. Smith (all afterwards became county judges); John W. Long, one-time county attorney, Robert B. Burrowes, S. S. Penepacker, Minnie Wall. (*Appearance Docket, passim*).

The death of Mrs. Carl Duesterhof in August, 1903, created much indignation throughout the county. When the trial was held, a number of women attended, anxious that justice be done. The facts showed that the woman died as the result of a beating administered by her husband, because the food had not been seasoned to suit him. Her lifeless body had been found beneath nearby bushes. Duesterhof was sentenced to a five year term in the penitentiary, but was later paroled to Judge Aaron Wall to care for the latter's horses. However, his irritable temper led to his return to serve out his sentence. (North-

western, August 7, 1903; Northwestern, Dec. 18, 1903; Apr. 18, '05). Two shootings in northeast Sherman County were handled by coroner's juries. On April 20, 1902, a posse killed a horse-thief, known as Baldwin or Bennett. In 1917 Louis Kamerad was killed in a cattle shed on the Pat Braden ranch. He had attacked a young girl in the vicinity. (Times, April 26, 1902; March 29, 1917).

Comunist Riot, June, 1934

Loup City was the scene of a riot on Flag Day, June 14, 1934, which attracted headlines from coast to coast. "Mother" Ella Reeves Bloor Omholt of the Communist party, was a nationally known figure involved.

Loup City's second newspaper, The People's Standard, had become an organ of the Farm Holiday Association, publishing flaming statements of activities. Schools of instruction had been held in the southern part of the county. The courtroom of Sherman County had been loaned for meetings of the group until the time of the riot.

Before the riot, the Fairmont Creamery, only industrial plant in Loup City, had taken on workers from Grand Island, who attempted to incite a strike. On the morning of June 14, Mr. J. E. Thompson, manager of the plant, was met by a delegation of women workers, who were persuaded by Mr. Thompson to return to work, following discussion of pay and working conditions. While the buttermaker, Mr. Eric Olson, was making deliveries, some one turned off the steam valve of the boiler, but this was discovered before any damage was done.

A meeting of the Farm Holiday group had been called for June 14, at 1 p.m. The adherents of the group began coming into town during the morning. By one o'clock the crowd had gathered on the lawn surrounding the courthouse. Some time near 4 p.m. a disturbance took place. When it was over, seven had been arrested: Burt Sells was taken to the Loup City Hospital because of a broken leg. Floyd Booth and his wife, young negroes from Grand Island, "Mother" Ella Reeves Bloor Omholt of North Dakota, Carl Wicklund, John Squires, and Harry McDonald, Sherman County farmers, and Sell's son Portius, of Arcadia, were arrested. Harry Smith was not found.

The county board of supervisors, on June 15, passed a resolution:

Whereas, secret meetings held in the Sherman County courthouse, under the auspices of the Farm Holiday Association, Young Communist League, Communistic party of the United States of America, the Unemployed Council, and others affiliated or working with the Third Internationale where it is the practice of such organizations to import agitators and speakers, resulting in public disturbances, they are hereby prohibited the use of the courthouse or ground—they are unAmerican. (Sup. Rec. IX, 40).

A Vigilance Committee of 200 was organized with Gus George, president; Troy Hansel, vice-president; and C. S. Hager, secretary-treasurer. They vowed to support the laws and protect property. H. A. Prince of Grand Island addressed the first meeting. (Times, July 27, 1934).

The county trial was held at Loup City June 26-28, with the charges

"unlawful assembly and inciting to riot". County Judge E. W. Moehnert presided; County Attorney W. H. Line was assisted by Assistant Attorney General of Nebraska W. B. Wright, while the defendants had the services of David Bentall, Communist lawyer of Chicago, assisted by local Attorney R. P. Starr. The six-man jury consisted of Park Paige, foreman; Walter Samuelson, Frank Daddow, Henry Christiansen, Joe Stobbe, and Harold Hansen.

Facts developed during the trial were that Carl Wicklund, A. E. Brundson (editor of the People's Standard), Harry Smith, and others had been refused admission to the packing plant of the Ravenna Creamery Company. The day of the riot a group from Hazard, Arcadia, Buffalo, Valley and Hall Counties had gathered to select a committee to picket the Fairmont plant. "Organizer" Smith of Omaha began to issue weapons, such as a cake of soap in a sock, when a deputized group under Sheriffs Thraikill of Sherman, Flake of Buffalo, Deputy State Sheriff Otto Dudschus, and Marshall Oscar Bechtold of Loup City appeared. In the ensuing clash, Portius Sell was knocked unconscious and had his leg broken.

Fred Hermann, Grand Island organizer, had been ordered off the premises of the Fairmont Creamery the morning of the disturbance; Ella Lathrop, a leader of unrest employed at the plant, had been dismissed; Harry Smith had arranged for the meeting at the courthouse grounds. Delaying tactics, characteristic of the American League against War and Fascism, were employed by Bentall. At the end of the third day, the jury, out from 6:30 p.m. until early Friday morning, returned a verdict of guilty. "Mother" Bloor's sentence was three months in jail and a fine of \$100.00; the others received lesser penalties. Mother Bloor and Loretta Booth were to serve the time in the Hall County jail. Attorney David Bentall asked for appeal bonds, which were furnished in part by Sherman County adherents of the Farm Holiday movement.

During the trial, County Judge Moehnert received threatening communications, "from Portland, Oregon, to Portland, Maine". These were taken over by the FBI.

On Thursday evening, June 28, while the jury were deliberating, a public meeting was held at the Liberty Theatre. It was addressed by W. P. Wilkerson, a full-blooded Cherokee Indian, who as a singer had appeared with the U. S. Navy Band at White House receptions. He made a practice of appearing wherever the American League against War and Fascism and similar groups attracted attention. His appeal to the young colored couple, Floyd and Loretta Booth, to stand by the United States despite any discrimination against his race or theirs, was especially moving.

Following this case, Bert Sells asked \$500,000.00 damages from twenty-three defendants:

Sheriff John Thraikill of Sherman County, and his deputy, C. J. Tracy; C. F. Beusheusen, E. T. Beusheusen, L. J. Tilton, Troy Hansel, James Grow, Howard Rowe, Herman Miller, George Brill, Roy Elrod, Emil Schoening, Harold Seidig, H. Oltman, and Oscar Bechtold of Loup City; Sheriffs G. S.

Rounds of Valley County, and Wm. Flake, of Buffalo County; Police Chief Lloyd Franks of Kearney, and Dee, Otto, and John Minshull.

This attempt failed.

Retrial of the "riot" case occurred in Sherman County District Court, Sept. 18, 1935, before District Judge Bruno O. Hostetler, who affirmed the decision of the county court. Loretta Booth was not listed as a defendant. Dewey Hanson of Omaha, International Labor lawyer, was added to the counsel for the defense, which Bentall again directed. (Judgment Record, Vol. 5, 24).

A suit was filed by Sheriff Otto Dudschus of Buffalo County, against A. E. Brundson, editor of the People's Standard, for defamation of character in the issues of July 19, Aug. 2, and Sept. 6. Brundson secured three local bondsmen, who forfeited bond when Brundson hurriedly left town in November, 1934.

"Mother" Bloor appealed her case to the Supreme Court of the State of Nebraska, where the decision of the District Court of Sherman County was affirmed in June, 1935. A rehearing requested in July, 1935, was denied, when the State Supreme Court in September, 1935, ruled that time must be served.

In late October, Floyd Booth, the young negro graduate of Grand Island High School, recanted Communism in a letter to the Grand Island Independent. (Times, Nov. 2, 1925). In the letter he described the steps taken to indoctrinate him, by attendance upon the Unemployed Council, Farm Workers' School, and the promise of a trip to Russia. Inability to obtain employment in time of depression had undoubtedly made him vulnerable. Relatives expressed the belief that the Sherman County residents implicated could never have been drawn into such organizations, had it not been for the drouth and depression.

Mrs. A. E. Brundson, wife of the Standard editor, published notice of disposal of the plant, in the Dec. 2, 1934 issue. She had been respected because of her ability; she mentioned the kindnesses shown her by a number of business men and many friends.

The threat of a "necktie party" promised County Judge Moehnert was handled by the FBI. District Judge Hostetler's public reply to one threatening letter from North Dakota was much publicized:

"I will not be deterred from the right performance of my duty as a judge by all the odds from Russia to Hell".

(Signed, Bruno O. Hostetler)

(Times, June 15-July 27, Sept. 21, 28, 1934; June 30, 1935. People's Standard, June 14-Dec. 2, 1934; Nebraska State Journal, *passim*). (County Court Crim. Docket, 3, 229-235. Case No. 480).

CHAPTER XVI

TOWNS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS

1. Loup City, the County Seat

Loup City, named as the county-seat of Sherman County in the first election, April 4, 1873, was incorporated as a village Jan. 28, 1881, after a petition signed by 200 citizens was presented to the county commissioners. (Comm. Rec. I, 335). Trustees appointed were E. S. Hayhurst, Robert Taylor, William Benschoter (replaced in April by J. S. Pedler), W. H. Lalk, and M. C. Lupton.

Regulation of livestock and the village pound was the most troublesome problem of the village authorities in early days. Ordinance No. 3, April 26, 1886, dealt with "The running at large of cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, mules and other animals". W. C. Lupton reported on the probable cost of a pound; to save expense, it was built on the north side of Wm. Benschoter's barn. Hitching posts around the public square were usually cared for by joint action of the city and county.

The first jail, of logs, stood south of main street. It was one room adjacent to the home of W. Winkleman, bailiff, whose wife provided meals for the prisoners. The next jail was a structure 8 feet wide, 12 feet long, and 8 feet high. Donations for material and labor were solicited. (Village Rec. I, 129). This "calaboose" was used until the county built a jail on the courthouse square in 1889. (Comm. Rec. I) This square frame building, painted a vivid pink, was a landmark until the recent courthouse was built in 1921.

The city water works system was begun in 1884, with two circular wells located south of the courthouse. The four-foot diameter insured their holding three feet of water. They were surrounded with four-foot fencing. The city fathers purchased a fire engine, but ordered the street commissioner to break and burn fireguards around the wells and also around the courthouse square. The wells were provided with pumps in 1885.

Action on water works followed the voting of bonds July 5, 1887, with a tax for their support. It was decided to locate a reservoir sunk in the hill northeast of the town, with the engine house and pumps at the end of main street. (This is today the residence of Mrs. D. D. Grow). Newton Pilger wrote in 1898 of the fun the boys of the town had running through the long, open trenches.

For power, it was decided to install a giant windmill on the hill northeast of town, near the reservoir. G. H. Gibson, versatile Pennsylvanian, is said to have been responsible for this plan. Later, two smaller windmills were added. These were the source of power until a storm damaged the larger mill in 1920. One gasoline engine had already been secured for power. Mr. Henry Jenner was water commissioner for twelve years.

The chief value of the city water works in early years was as a means of fire protection. Not many residences, and only a few business

houses, utilized city water. After 1900, when a number of large, modern homes were built, each had its own windmill to supply water, and its own cess pool for sewage disposal. Several windmills and reservoirs belonging to citizens were located in the pasture west of the city windmills.

In 1920, new wells were located on the land near the railroad tracks west of the Keystone Lumber Company. The city pays a yearly rental to the B&M Railroad Company. A brick engine house was built, and engines installed to pump the water either directly into the mains, or into the reservoir on the hill. Loup City water, extremely "hard", has been of uniformly pure quality.

At first sewer drainage emptied into Dead Horse Creek, south of town. Various changes and additions were made, and the course of sewer drainage enlarged. Loup City today has a fairly adequate drainage system, although some changes have altered the natural direction of slope from northeast to southwest.

There were light poles with gas lamps in the late 1890's. Street lighting on a commercial scale was begun in 1906, when Dr. W. T. Chase secured a 20-year franchise for an acetylene plant. These pipes were removed in 1931, when paving was under way.

Having moved the mill from the race south of town to the western end of main street, in 1912, E. G. Taylor investigated extensively the furnishing of electric power. He was granted a twenty-year franchise on Jan. 18, 1912; on May 15, 1912, he was authorized to erect 55 electric light poles in Loup City. An electric siren was purchased in 1917, replacing the troublesome firebell of the '90's.

The first paving in Loup City was on main street and the street north from the hotel to the Catholic Church. Willite was the surface chosen; the State Highway Department financed the street paving from the hotel north, while the city paved the business section. This work was done in 1931. Later, that part of the Highway 16 which parallels the second block south of "Main Street" was paved by the state. Other streets of the town are now curbed and gravelled.

Loup City became a city of the second class in March, 1908, when a petition was filed by S. E. Gallaway, and two others by Edgar Draper and citizens. Three of the four trustees favored the change. Following testimony on population by A. B. Outhouse, J. S. Pedler, and W. F. Mason, Ordinance No. 70 made the ward division on the street west of the courthouse. At this time the city council met at the hose house. (Council Proc. Bk. 3). Two councilmen would be elected from each ward, since Loup City had a population exceeding the 1000 required to become a city of the second class. City officials and employees were: mayor, clerk, treasurer, police judge, city engineer, policeman, pound master and street commissioner.

Loup City had saloons from its beginning. One of the first ones was housed in a long sod building whitewashed on the outside. In 1879, following the advertising campaign of the B & M railroad, the influx of settlers increased the number of saloons to five. The town at that time was filled with bold characters, so that carrying a gun was common. (Mrs. M. Johansen, May 5, 1948).

Later the number of saloons was reduced to two, paying a license of \$500.00 a year. Since this fee went to the support of the local schools, some opposition to saloons was quieted.

Chairmen of the village boards:

1881, Robert Taylor; 1882, E. S. Hayhurst; 1883, Calvin Landers; 1884, W. H. Morris; 1885, J. Phil. Jaeger; 1886, A. E. Charlton; 1887, J. E. Blackman; 1888, A. J. Bell; 1889, D. A. Jackson; 1890, G. W. Kittell; 1891, A. P. Culley; 1892, G. W. Hunter; 1893, A. B. Outhouse; 1894, M. C. Mulick; . . .

Mayors of Loup City: 1907-10, O. F. Petersen; 1911-13, H. W. Pedler; 1913-15, A. B. Outhouse; 1916, S. A. Allen; 1917, W. T. Gibson, d. Sept.); 1918, C. C. Cooper; 1922, O. L. Swanson.

1926-30, Dr. J. E. Bowman; 1930-34, A. R. Outhouse; 1934-48, I. A. Gdanitz; 1948-52, A. L. Brown; 1952, Ray Pinckney.

A practical-minded city council, in May, 1950, discarded the street names bestowed by pioneers. Main Street was recorded as "O" Street, following the plan of the state capital, Lincoln; the streets north and south were numbered. The attempt to secure free mail delivery, which prompted the street numbering, failed. (Records of Loup City, courtesy of Fred Sherman, city clerk).

Loup City has had a volunteer fire department since the 80's. The machinery of the department, which includes two trucks, chemical apparatus, first aid supplies, invalid beds and chairs (loaned on request), is housed in the brick building on main street, east of the postoffice. Officers elected in December, 1951 were:

Fire Chief, O. S. Mason, Jr.; president, R. H. Cortner; vice-president, Mike Kronkwright; secretary, Henry Gzehoviak; treasurer, Frank Ryan; executive committee, John Hegarty, Ed Bezant, Bill Billesbach; assistant chief, Harry Knecht.

Specifications for a new fire truck were drawn by Councilmen Nels J. Smith and F. J. Leschinsky, and two firemen, Fred Sherman, and Fire Chief O. S. Mason. There are 35 firemen.

City officials and employees, 1951 were:

Mayor, A. L. Brown; councilmen, Frederick J. Leschinsky, Harry Lewandowski, C. H. Brown, Nels Smith; city clerk, Fred Sherman; city treasurer, Edw. Bazant; Chief of police, Edwin Guilford; water and street commissioner, Clarence Pray; chief of police, Earl Hancock.

A proposal to authorize the issuing of \$5000.00 in bonds for the purchase of Jenner's Park as a city park was rejected by a vote of 231 to 298 in a special election Nov. 28, 1947.

In April, 1948, a proposal to create an athletic park east of the city was defeated, along with Sunday beer sales.

Ohlsen Brothers, owning the triangular plot between the two railroads, the U. P. and B & M., planned to develop a park and amusement center. A windmill furnished the means of providing water for a pond, which was to be stocked with fish. The pond was used for skating in winter, greatly enjoyed by Loup City youngsters. The burning of the plant caused the project to be dropped. The lawn of the John Ohlsen home, extending to the creek on one side and the railroad on the other, shows suggestions of the park planned in the '90's.

Pioneers recall the fellowship of early years, when everyone knew everyone else, and all were alike—poor. A young man who came to Loup City in 1905, later described the town as he saw it then:

Doc Chase's words were facts; Wall's were law.—A magnetic force enveloped the community—individual personality meant something to the community and to all individuals who lived in it. Some were of differing opinions, but all had one purpose, the inherited idea of the person to help the individual to help himself. (Times, July 19, 1939).

Loup City Hospital and Clinic

That Loup City has a hospital and clinic is due to the dream of a Loup City boy who became a doctor, Carl G. Amick, who was graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 1921. He began practice in Loup City with Dr. A. E. Wanek in 1922. The first hospital was located in the large residence of Mrs. Viola Odendahl, two blocks north of the Frederick Hotel, opened in 1926.

His success enabled him to build a two-story Dutch Colonial brick structure east of the Loup City Library, facing the court house square. The opening took place June 28, 1937. Air-conditioned, with office, kitchen, laundry and furnace room in the basement, its first floor consisted of five private rooms, a four-bed ward, store room, operating room and bath. Living quarters for nurses were on the second floor. Nurses' training was given by the hospital staff. Miss Getta Petersen, in charge of the kitchen, and Miss Clara Piechota, trained by Dr. Amick, made the hospital popular with patients in its early years.

Because the supervision of the hospital took time which he preferred to devote to private practice, Dr. Amick in 1945 sold the hospital to the Sisters of St. Joseph, who assumed management July 1, 1946. The clinic building of modernistic design in buff brick, located on the northeast corner opposite the courthouse square, was completed June 30, 1946, but was enlarged by an addition to the east in 1949. Dr. Amick regularly has associated with him two other physicians, at present Dr. M. L. Crouse and Dr. B. L. Miller.

Meanwhile, the Sisters of St. Joseph, to relieve congested conditions in the hospital, purchased the former T. E. Elsner home west of the library, for a maternity hospital, known as the Annex. The former J. S. Pedler residence, north of the Annex, was bought as a home for the nursing sisters.

To enlarge Sacred Heart Hospital, as it is now called, a fund-raising campaign in the spring of 1950, assures federal aid in construction. Plans have been approved, and it is expected that construction may begin in the near future, when an allotment of scarce materials is made.

Present staff of the clinic includes: Dr. C. G. Amick, Dr. M. H. Crouse, Dr. B. L. Miller; receptionist, Miss Shirley Owens; X-ray Technician and General Assistant, Mrs. Julia Youngquist; Laboratory Technician, Mrs. Vivian Turek.

The staff at the hospital, headed by Sister Superior M. Henrietta, is Sister M. Eunice, Superintendent of Nurses and Anaesthetist; Sister M. Rose; Sister M. Antonette, Superintendent of the Annex; Sister M. Regina; Sister M. Barbara, X-ray and

Laboratory Technician; Sister M. Joan, Dietician; Sister, M. Vivian, Housekeeper; Sister M. Martha, in charge of the nursery.

Nurses are Mrs. R. Pedersen, R. N.; Miss Edna Lutz, R. N.; Nurses Aids, Mrs. Alice Krolikowski; Mrs. Emma Voden-dahl; Mrs. Evelyn Ferende.

(Data furnished by Mrs. Julia Youngquist).

The Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company reached Loup City in October, 1949. There is a 25-year franchise with the City of Loup City. There are approximately 32 miles of pipe in Sherman County, serving 92 customers in Litchfield, 15 rural and 358 customers in Loup City, a total of 465 users of natural gas in Sherman County.

This company secures gas for the local area from the company's Hugoten Field in Kansas. Recently it purchased interests in two gas-producing wells in the Big Springs (Nebraska) Field, so considers that it has gas reserves sufficient to supply its markets for 25 years. In 1951 it increased the system's capacity by 16 per cent, adding 25 new towns. It now serves 59 cities and towns at wholesale and 110 towns at retail, a total of 76,569 customers.

In the Loup City office, Mr. H. M. Corbitt, Division Manager, with headquarters here, supervises Kansas-Nebraska offices at St. Paul, Ravenna, Ord, Burwell, Broken Bow, and Loup City. Local personnell includes R. L. Morgan, District Manager; Duane Martin, service foreman; Mervin Evans, service man, Charles Hays, division welder, and Arline Clark, cashier. (Courtesy of the office, March 25, 1952).

Ashton

The B & M (at that time the Lincoln and Black Hills Railroad), located a station east of Loup City in Sherman County. It is said that the site chosen was at the time a prairie-dog town, not far from Oak Creek. The railroad had reached the site by the summer of 1887. The Lincoln Townsite Company platted the original town Nov. 9, 1887. Mr. J. P. Taylor is said to have named the new town Ashton, in honor of his old home in Ashton, Illinois.

District 16 and the rural postoffice Zeven (originally called Wilhelmshohe) were not moved to the new townsite until after 1888. In anticipation of the railroad, there was a lumber yard, a hotel, two livery stables, a grain elevator, two general stores (Conkling and Badura), besides stock buyers and real estate dealers. A brick yard near the creek west of the townsite, owned by H. Smelser, was sold to Streithorst and Wichman in 1886. The bricks were used locally.

Mr. Alex Gappa recalls the moving of the postoffice from the farm home of his father, Frank Gappa. "All there was to move, was a couple of mail sacks and some records". (Interview, Febr. 25, 1952). The name of the postoffice became Ashton, that of the town, abandoning "Zeven". The Bank of Ashton was begun in 1888. I. M. Polski bought a controlling interest in 1900.

The town of Ashton was incorporated after 53 signers had presented a petition, on March 30, 1889. Theo. Ojendyk, H. Smelser, J. Arthaud, Fred Wichman, and Yost Blumer were appointed trustees. (Sup. Rec. 2, 482).

The Presbyterian Church was organized April 1, 1890. The Platt-deutscher Verein built a hall, 40x70, in July, 1892. This building served as an opera house and today houses the fine Crest Theatre. The frame schoolhouse of Dist. No: 16 was sold to John Stanka and a new one built in Ashton in 1891.

Ashton in 1891 had a literary, singing and debating society; and a good band (many from Paplin), Gadeyski's. Football was "the game". Due to the leadership of Mr. Jacob Albers there was a fine Fourth of July celebration in 1891; also early Old Settlers reunions.

Tockey's hotel burned in 1892. In the cyclone of 1896, water did much damage, and the Presbyterian church was unroofed. A postoffice building was built in July, 1898, St. Francis Catholic Church was dedicated in 1899, and in 1900 Knutzen's park was at its best. A Socialist paper, The Ashton News, owned by J. C. Wesley of Sargent, edited by John Smith, was published for a short time in 1892. It was followed in 1915 by the Ashton Herald, which suspended publication in 1932.

Fire destroyed the first elevator built in Ashton, that of C. M. Jacques, but the E. G. Taylor elevator, although threatened, was saved. The first railroad station burned in 1930, and was replaced by the present one-story building. From time to time, Ashton has suffered a number of disastrous fires.

Population shift caused the Presbyterian Church building to be sold to the congregation of St. Mathew's Evangelical, in 1910. Meetings of this organization are virtually suspended at present (1951).

Ashton boasted the first up-to-date electric light plant in the county, installed by the Januelewicz Brothers (Edw. and Floyd), in 1910. Agitation for a modern waterworks system failed in 1911, but it was finally built in 1926. There are three wells which furnish water pumped to the large watertower on the hill southwest of town. There is no sewer system. There is a volunteer fire department.

The Ashton Herald reported, Aug. 7, 1925:

The road overseers of Ashton Township and their gang cleared historic Lover's Lane from Highway 62 west to the John Wall farm, on the Adamski corner. The love screen of trees and bushes is gone; it was one of the historic spots of the county.

The present two-story brick school building was built in 1937. The parochial school was completed in 1909. In its first year, there were approximately 150 pupils. A kindergarten in connection with the school was begun in 1921. With the erection of the parochial school at Loup City, in 1931, enrollment in 1949 was seventy-eight, with three sisters on the instruction staff.

A city park, named Roosevelt Park, was laid out north of Ashton in 1933. It was financed by local contributions, but thus far is used almost exclusively for ball games.

The rich Oak Creek Valley made Ashton an excellent trading center. The Beatrice Creamery built a building in 1899, which burned. The Ashton Cooperative Creamery was in operation in 1926.

For many years Ashton had a resident physician, and often a

resident dentist. Due to improved transportation and centralization, this is no longer true. The Ashton Lumber Company, organized in 1907, has absorbed the pioneer lumber yard, the Keystone. Ashton always had saloons, except during the years of local option, but voted out Sunday beer in 1951.

Old timers consider that Ashton was at its peak, so far as business is concerned, from 1922-28. The mingling of German, Polish, and Americans has been remarkably amicable. Due to its Polish population, it was said, Ashton furnished a large number of volunteers in World War I. The Bank of Ashton with the First National of Loup City, survived the hard times of the '30's.

Chairmen of the village board since 1934: 1934-38, F. J. Stobbe; 38-48, A. C. Maschka, 48-50, Adam Gehring.

1934-38, F. J. Stobbe; 38-48, A. C. Maschka; 48-50, Adam Gehring.

(Information furnished by Albert Anderstrom, and son, Dale Anderstrom, Sister M. Theodosia, Mr. Alex Gappa, Mr. N. Ignowski.)

Sherman County's oldest resident, Mr. T. B. Chudzinski, lives in his own home at Ashton. Recently the Ashton Lumber Company built a small house for him, nearer town than his former home. He shaves himself with an old-fashioned straight edge razor, and in general cares for himself. (Times, Febr., 1952). He was born Febr. 7, 1849, in Poland; came to Ord, Nebraska, in 1888, and to Ashton in 1905. (Letter, T. B. Chudzinski, July 3, 1948).

Austin

Austin, a "siding" on the Union Pacific half-way between Loup City and Rockville, had an identity of its own long before the coming of the railroad. The first postoffice, located on the farm of Oliver S. Brown had been named July 7, 1777, in honor of Elder Simeon Austin, a travelling minister who held services in the schoolhouse and married couples occasionally.

The site for the first schoolhouse in Dist. No. 2 was granted by N. B. Thompson and wife March 9, 1874. Thompson was the first director; A. J. Wilson treasurer, and Oliver S. Brown moderator. District No. 28, Rose Valley school, was cut off April 3, 1880.

Land entries in T14N, R.14W were numerous after 1878. These are some of the names which appear:

John Vandegrift, John S. Needham, John L. Farwell, R. Ogle, W. H. Ogle, O. S. Marks, Jacob Criss, Henry Gardner, Mary C. Taylor, Joseph M. Warner, John F. Swain, James Fletcher, Oliver S. Brown, Edw. Vandegrift, John B. Nagelvoort, Richard Andrews, Alfred Chambers, C. W. Hills, J. M. Snyder, Edw. R. Carruth, Adam Windolph, Couton, Treffer.

The cemetery was laid out in November, 1889; W. G. Hayes, A. J. Wilson, O. S. Brown, Abel Gates, John Vandegrift were directors; Esau Belden, Sexton. The late L. L. Stephens began a genealogy of the families buried there, often intermarried, but was unable to complete it. Not long before his passing he remarked: "the material is here; some one else will finish it."

John B. Nagelvoort, second postmaster, was called "doctor", but was a chemist, not a physician. He was inexperienced in farming,

so was easily "sold" on machinery in Grand Island. From his large red barn swung a sign:

"Austin Postoffice—Money Orders to All Parts of the World".

The death of his wife left him a broken man. Before leaving Austin, he gave to Mrs. John Needham and her niece, Mrs. Abel Gates, huge linen napkins which had belonged to his wife, so large they made a cover for a small center table. (Byrdee Needham, Aug. 9, 1951).

A two-story store building was built in 1899, when C. C. Cooper furnished a stock of merchandise and groceries. Downstairs was the store and postoffice; upstairs was a community hall, with an outside staircase. One room ten feet wide was set off upstairs by a curtain so that it might furnish living quarters. In a nearby grove picnics and ball games were held. This store was discontinued in 1922.

The railroad built side-tracks in 1902. There were coal sheds and an elevator. Austin school was attractive to teachers, because the trains would discharge and take on passengers there.

An excellent two-room school house was built in 1906. In 1916-17 Austin was a rural high school of ten grades. The school is now closed; the pupils attend school at Loup City. The schoolhouse, leased by Alpha Nu, a rural home-makers club, is still used for community gatherings.

The Presbyterian Church, built in 1906, was disbanded in 1946. The church, the school literary societies, the ball-team, are gone, but the neighborliness of Austin survives.

(Interviews, Mr. and Mrs. Dan McDonald, May 8, 1951; Miss Byrdee Needham, Aug. 9, 1951, Mrs. Barbara Couton, May 30, 1947; newspapers).

Hazard

The Billings and Black Hills Railroad, now the B&M, decided the location of Hazard, a stopping point between Litchfield and Sweetwater, the latter on the boundary between Sherman and Buffalo Counties. Had the postoffice of Algernon, in eastern Custer County, been receptive, the railroad might have been further to the west, but without Algernon's cooperation the road was located up the Beaver and Muddy Creek Valleys.

The Lincoln Land Company, holding company for railroad lands, and Amelia and Edward Dunn, deeded land to the public June 5, 1886. (Deed Rec. 6, 241). The northeast quarter of Sec. 19 and the southeast half of the southeast quarter of 18-13-15 were surveyed Oct. 30, 1886.

Among early entries in the vicinity were:

Thos. Croston, Dec. 15, 1873; Wm. H. Bunnell, Sept. 30, 1873; (soon cancelled); Chas. von Capellan, May 5, 1875; Carl de la Motte, Aug. 19, 1876; Wm. J. McNeill, July 8, 1878; George Bent, July 24, 1878; James M. Goff, Sept. 12, 1878; Julius Pedersen, Aug. 1, 1876; Hans Pedersen, Oct. 28, 1878 (from the railroad); Jens Spangburg, March 13, 1879; Henry von Capellan, March 28, 1874; Henry Boecking, May 26, 1879; Edward Munn, May 23, 1879; Sophia Fisher, Jan. 26, 1880; Henry C. Hobart, Oct. 2, 1883; G. E. Dahlgren, Reinert Reinertson, Apr. 1, 1882.

The first settler in Hazard Township was Thomas Croston, a Union soldier from the Winchester, Va., region. Following the war, when his southern sweetheart was forbidden to see her Yankee admirer, she climbed from the second story window of her room, mounted his horse behind him, and rode away to be married. The couple came to Grand Island in 1872, locating a claim in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, 28-13-16, entered Dec. 15, 1873. Here they expected to make a living by fishing, hunting and trapping, but roving Indians sent them back to Grand Island for a time. In the sod house on their claim a son was born April 6, 1874, the first birth, it is said, in the township. John Roberts had come from Grand Island with the Crostons. He lived in a dugout on Beaver Creek, where the grasshoppers took everything in a three-day stop in 1874. W. R. Hodges and his son Robert, a preacher, were the nearest neighbors. Another neighbor was Andrew J. Shipley, whose experiences in both Andersonville and Libby prisons during the Civil War had greatly affected him.

Of the group of Norwegians who settled in the vicinity, Reinert Reinertson and Captain Amund Olson had been seamen on Lake Michigan. Reinertson received \$7000.00 as his one-third share when the boat on which he had sailed was sold. Toby Nelson and Nils Martin Nilson were sailors on the Atlantic. Ludwig Larsen came from Michigan. Other Norwegians were Ever Everson, Julius Johnson, Emerick Berg, Hans Svendsen, Jens Spangburg, Paul Stanslund, Julius Pedersen.

German settlers in the township were Joseph and Adolph Rettenmeyer, George Oldzhauer, John S. Goff, Johann Heisner, Henry Boecking, Wm. Widdis, Denis Hassam (both cancelled), Christian Wolf, August Mickish, August Lade.

A postoffice, Bentora, had been located on the farm of Goerge Bent (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 12-13-15) in Oct. 1882. It was moved to the new town of Hazard Jan. 14, 1887. Before the coming of the railroad lumber had been hauled from Kearney, thirty miles away. At Sweetwater, on the county line, a Mr. Byers had a store. Mail was brought to Sweetwater by stage route from Kearney.

After the railroad designated a station, John R. Davidson moved his store from Bentora postoffice and set it up near the railroad, in the middle of a cornfield. When Edward R. Munn became postmaster in 1891, there was a frame building for a postoffice, but Mr. Munn continued to live in a "soddy". Stewart C. Skinner made wagons for the community, and H. C. Hobart made wagons. Fuller opened another store. The Lincoln Land Company in Febr. 1909, had the first addition to Hazard surveyed.

Hazard was a flourishing town in a rich agricultural area. Before the coming of the auto, it supported a bank, three grocery stores, an implement store, drug store, elevator, blacksmith shop. In 1951 there is a grocery store, garage and restaurant.

Hazard was always politically-minded. The Farmer's Alliance at one time had a store there and there were other business cooperatives. The Hazard Telephone Company was organized in 1909 with Hiyo Aden, Fred C. Fuller, C. W. Trumble, Chas. Croston, and John Boecking

incorporators. In 1916 it was reported that the stock had doubled in value in eight years.

Hazard presented a petition for incorporation to the county board on Aug. 16, 1916. Trustees appointed were: O. J. Walthers, R. A. Russell, L. H. Robertson, George Bent, and William Petersen. (Sup. Rec. VI, 309).

Hazard at one time had a twelve grade school, but today maintains only eight grades. There are three churches, Methodist, Lutheran, and Catholic, with only the Lutheran pastor resident. Membership is strong in the outlying rural areas. Chairmen of the village board since 1934 have been: 1934, G. A. Roeder; 1938, Adam Roeder; 1938-46, James Erazim; 1946, Earl Brewer.

(Information largely furnished by Mrs. Alfred Reinertson, Nov. 1, 1951; Hiyo Aden, Nov. 9, 1951; Glen Reinertson, in Times, July 1, 1948; Gladys Reinertson, Hazard High School Annual, Issues of the Times, Carl de la Motte, Febr. 26, 1952).

Litchfield

(Mrs. Thelma Lang, Times, July 1, 1948)

It is said that in 1873 a pioneer resident put up a sign near what was later to be the town of Litchfield. It read:

10 Miles to Water
30 Miles to Wood
God Bless Our Home

The townsite of Litchfield, platted and surveyed by the Lincoln Townsite Company, in 1887, was purchased from John Kisling, L. D. Emgleman, and Mrs. A. Powell. The town began with the arrival of railroad May 20, 1886. The first building was erected that by J. T. Campbell. It stood in the southeast part of town, near the old stock yards. A building had been brought in earlier from the Enoch Gowin farm and was placed on the corner just northeast of the present flagpole site. Enoch Gowin and J. T. Campbell conducted their real estate business from this office.

The first residence was built by Enoch Gowin in east Litchfield. James Lang and Joseph Pearson built a general store and soon afterward, a livery stable was built by Jim Hanaford and John Edwards.

The first newspaper was published Oct. 7, 1886, by E. R. Bradley and R. D. V. Carr. It carried advertisements of Waldo Thorn, druggist; E. Brewer, furniture and undertaking; Lang and Pearson, general merchandise; A. R. Elswick, Litchfield House; Wall, Long and Bradley, attorneys; Dr. G. S. Milnes; Littlefield and Son, feed stable; D. W. Titus and John Terhune, Litchfield Bank; D. F. Waters, hardware; J. T. Campbell, general merchandise and others. (Note: The E. Brewer undertaking and furniture establishment, and two of the three attorneys, Aaron Wall and Elmer E. Long, lived in Loup City).

May 8, 1909, a spectacular fire destroyed the B&M railroad station at Litchfield. In this area, the B & M Railroad did not take the odd-numbered sections, as it did elsewhere in the county. Francis Lang and Alfred Flint made entries in 1873; John Johnson and Howard Lang in 1874; in sections 33, 34, 35, and 29, T. 14, R. 16.

The town was incorporated March 16, 1878. Joseph Littlefield, D. W.

Titus, E. W. Gowin (pronounced Go-in), F. H. Reasoner, and Clarence Coleman were appointed the first board of trustees. (Com. Rec. II, 482).

Fairview Park was secured within two years, when Sarah and James T. Campbell had it surveyed (May, 1887), and deeded to the city a plot 722 x 1172 feet, located in the SW, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ ~~78~~ 78, 18, 18, 18. There have been six additions to the original townsite. 27-14-16.

The Cedarville postoffice, on the farm of Enoch W. Gowin, southwest of Litchfield, was moved to the new townsite June 18, 1888. A flour mill was moved to the southwest edge of town in 1882.

Because of its location on the "west side" of the county, on the Billings (main) line of the B & M Railroad, Litchfield has always had connections with Custer County to the west, and Buffalo County on the south. Its population has been characterized by intense vigor in attacking local problems. It had a newspaper from 1886 to 1941. Without outside assistance, Litchfield women established a public library.

Litchfield's first water system depended upon windmills for power. (Monitor, Apr. 29, 1910). Today there is a standpipe with gasoline engines for power. Streets are gravelled. Its Old Settlers Picnic, worthy successor of the first Fourth of July celebration of 1876, arouses great interest.

The town is noted for the age attained by many of its residents. Civil War veterans G. D. Engleman and Enoch Gown died at the age of 96. Mrs. Ellen Engleman, aged 99 in 1948, rode in a float at the Diamond Jubilee celebration at the county-seat in 1948. In 1946, Mrs. Engleman, 97, Mrs. Elizabeth Halbeisen, 96, and Mrs. Nannie Arnett, 96, voted in the elections. Many couples celebrate their golden weddings; in March, 1951, 13 Litchfield couples celebrated their golden weddings or golden weddings plus. (Times).

Chairmen of the village board since 1934 have been: 1934-38, H. M. Burtner; 1938, C. M. Anderson; 1940, B. M. Lang; 1942, G. W. Sweeley; 1944, Henry Schultz; 1946, Paul Chipps; 1950, Paul Shaffer. (Nebr. Blue Book, *passim*).

McAlpine

When the B&M railroad built northwest from Loup City toward Arcadia, they planned another railroad station at a point eight miles above Loup City. It was named McAlpine, in honor of Thomas McAlpine, who was connected with the Lincoln Land Company, a subsidiary of the B&M. A town was platted, lots and blocks deeded to the Lincoln Land Company March 26, 1889. (Misc. Rec. II, 16, Deed Rec. 9, 37.) But no town developed, hence it may be termed a "ghost town"

A river bridge was built across the Loup River, at the insistence of Mr. Jacob Albers, but was so little used that it was later moved.

Stockyards for loading cattle shipments were built in 1898 (Northwestern, March 23, 1898). Carsten Truelsen, a farmer living nearby, bought four buildings in May, 1901. The railroad tore down the depot.

Had the county's population warranted it, McAlpine might have been for a time a thriving trade center, but it would have disappeared

eventually, with the coming of auto and truck, as Austin and Schaupps Siding had done.

Rockville

Rockville, southeast of Loup City on the Union Pacific, was platted by John H. Frease of Napoleon, Henry Co., Ohio, on May 7, 1886. For the townsite he paid Charles H. Webster \$800.00 on June 19, 1886; \$1.00 to W. H. Stephens for land in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 5-13-13; and Austin Butts \$500.00 for land in section 8. (Deed Record VI, 8).

Since a postoffice had been established and named by W. H. Stephens earlier (Dec. 1, 1873), the town may be said to have preceded the railroad. Stephens also had a small store.

Early business firms, according to L. L. Stephens, writing in July (1) 1948, were: Rinker and Bode, Stephens and Peck, C. W. Fletcher, W. Townsend, Fred E. Plume (blacksmith), Miss Merton, sister of Mrs. Fred Gust, who built a hotel; Dr. J. C. Dunn, who came from Orella, Indiana, to practice medicine, but died in Jan. 1888; Riley Bissell, first manager of the Keystone Lumber Yard, begun in 1891; Stephen S. Branscomb, who moved from his farm to start a blacksmith shop; Sam'l J. Fair, who left his farm to start a hardware store.

The failure of Wm. Townsend, who bought and sold cattle, feed and farm machinery, was a set-back to the new town. The Times, reporting it in June, 1887 (a year after the railroad arrived), stated that the loss was between \$12,000 and \$15,000, and that J. Treffer, Henry Dunker, Jacob Schmalljohn, and the Deere Company were the losers.

J. J. Cookingham ran a bus line from Rockville to Ravenna in the spring of 1887. The bus left Rockville at 8:30 a.m., arriving at Ravenna at 11:30 a.m.; returning, it left Ravenna at 4 a.m. and reached Rockville at 6:30 p.m.

Rockville had diverse nationalities within its trading area; Americans, Germans, Danes, Bohemians, and Polish. This may explain why churches were so late in being built in Rockville.

Rockville was incorporated as a village on March 16, 1887, upon presentation of a petition to the county commissioners. D. L. Adamson, Carl Bode, L. C. Kranz, Sam'l J. Fair, and William Townsend were the first board of trustees. (Comm. Rec. II, 223).

The brick town hall and jail were built in 1911. In 1913, with a population of 225, Rockville had two general merchandise stores, two grain elevators, one bank, three cream stations, a meat market, saloon, pool hall, hotel, garage, blacksmith shop, livery barn, shoe repair shop, opera house, dance floor, a drug store and jewelry store, one physician, Dr. E. L. Dickerson, also a city hall and fine school building. (Northwestern, Dec. 23, 1913).

Rockville has always shown community spirit in furthering good causes. Also, Rockville has been notably law-abiding, according to L. L. Stephens (Times, July 1, 1948):

In the 76 years of its existence the Rockville vicinity has never known a murder or any other major crime of violence. The post office safe was blown once, a building was destroyed

by an incendiary, and a few unguarded articles may have come up missing, and at various times the younger male element, and some not so young, motivated by an exuberance of alcoholic potables, has been known to throw its weight around. But it is submitted that there is not a vicinity in Sherman County, and perhaps none in the state, that has been so nearly free from crime as Rockville.

Rockville has had a fire department since 1920, although city water works are lacking. The park near the site of the former railroad station (it was moved to Grand Island in 1945), a memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt, was established June 30, 1947. (The station was closed in 1940).

The board of trustees for 1951 is: F. A. Dunker, chairman, Hans Smith, Alfred Jensen, A. E. Sorensen, Ben Schnase, Laurens Nocienski, clerk. Mr. Dunker, of a pioneer Sherman Co. family, took charge of the Keystone Lbr. Co. yard at Schaupps in 1904. In 1913 he assumed management of the Rockville yards, which he bought in 1947. At the age of 77, he is still "going strong". (F. A. Dunker, Apr. 12, 1951)

Chairmen of the village board since 1934: 1934, Ed Isaacson; 1934-38, S. E. Sorensen; 1938, H. Smith; 1940-46, Victor Sorensen; 1948, F. A. Dunker.

Schaupps Siding

Schaupps Siding was located in the Oak Creek Valley, six miles east of Loup City, in Sections 7 and 12—T. 15, R. 13, on the B&M railroad. It was named for Adam Schaupp, who built an elevator there. The Keystone Lumber Company of Loup City built a lumber yard in 1907.

The Schaupps school, District No. 73, was formed Dec. 7, 1893, from Districts 30 and 45. Because the passenger trains would receive and discharge passengers there, the Schaupps school was popular with teachers from Loup City, who could remain at home, going to school in the morning and returning at night.

The postoffice was established Febr. 15, 1905, with Emory Bly the first postmaster. Frank Topolski had a store at one time. Mr. William Lewandowski built a general store in 1907, at which time there were seven places of business, including one elevator. The school was the center of community activities. These included "suppers", basketball and baseball games (played on grounds near the school), and programs of various sorts.

Frank Brinlee had a blacksmith shop; Fred Dunker ran the Keystone Lumber Co. yard; John G. Badura had a hardware store. Mr. Lewandowski moved his household goods and the store, dry goods and groceries, and the family cow, by freight train to Loup City, in 1914. He bought out the Bredhauer store, located where the I. A. Gdanitz store now stands.

Increased use of the auto spelled the end of Schaupps. The buildings were dismantled; the railroad removed its side track.

(Interviews, Mr. Wm. Lewandowski, May 1951; F. A. Dunker, Sept. 1, 1950).

Souleville Is a Well-Knit Community

(Mrs. John Seifert, Times, July 1, 1948)

In the winter of 1872-73 two veterans of the Civil War left their homes and families in Illinois and started west to seek greater opportunities. They were William Young and George Soule. They arrived in Grand Island in February, 1873 with teams and wagons, and after stopping at the land office there, proceeded up the Middle Loup to a point midway between what is now Boelus and Rockville, and settled on adjoining quarters.

Mr. Young built a dug-out in the bank about half a mile from the river, and covered it with lumber he had hauled from Grand Island. He planted his first crop that spring and harvested it. Then in November he went to Grand Island with team and wagon to get his wife, Ann, and their four children, George, Mary Ann, Eunice, and Frank.

While he was gone his friend, George Soule, Died (Nov. 13, 1873), and since there was no lumber available to build his casket, the roof was removed from the Young dug-out for that purpose. He was buried on his land.

Before long a stream of settlers was coming in. William Stephens and Charles Webster later started the village of Rockville. Among the earliest settlers were Andrew and Perry Carleton, C. Webster, W. L. Leonard, John Alsbaugh, Mr. Moffett, Jens Bartleson, Thomas Jensen, Seward Fry, John Isaacson, David and Sam Fair and Noah Vanscoy.

These pioneers tried to build their homes as close together as possible, but since every other section was owned by the railroad and sections 16 and 36 were reserved for school purposes, the settlers were quite isolated.

In the years that followed a freight, passenger and mail route was started from Grand Island to Loup City, now a rapidly growing town. It was driven by a Mr. Bassett, who at that time was courting one of George Soule's daughters, hence stopped frequently at the Soule home to pay his respects to the young lady. It occurred to the practical pioneers that they might as well start a postoffice at that point. The relay horses for the freight line were quartered at the Young home. A small store was established at the Soule homestead.

In the meantime Perry Carleton's wife had died, and also his brother Andrew. Both were buried on their own lands. George Soule's widow then married Perry Carleton and the store and postoffice were taken over by Sam Fair and quartered in a new log cabin on the Soule place. Later Sam Fair moved to Rockville and became postmaster and proprietor of a hardware store.

It is recalled that all the mail for the entire route was contained in one bag; its contents were dumped out at each postoffice and the postmaster was obliged to scramble hurriedly through the pile and remove his own mail, then dump the contents back in the sack while the freight and passengers were being loaded.

In the fall of 1877 Ann Young decided to return to her home in Sheldon, Ill., for a visit, little realizing the tragic events that were

to follow her visit. While there the children contracted germs of the dread "black death" of the pioneers and as soon as she returned the family was stricken with diphtheria. In a few days both daughters were dead.

William Young then gave a corner of his land to the community for a cemetery, and the bodies of George Soule, Andrew Carleton and Mrs. Perry Carleton were moved to that location. The community and also the cemetery were named Souleville in honor of the first man buried there, and not, as quite a few wits have remarked, because it was a "village of souls". This cemetery now serves both the Rockville and Boelus communities.

The Souleville school district No. 3 was organized in the early '70's. (Jan. 14, 1874). The first schoolhouse was a dug-out on a bank just north of the home now occupied by John Seiffert. Later a frame building was built halfway between the Young and Soule homesteads.

The land in the river valley was soon taken up and the settlers pushed into the hills. They demanded a more central location for the schoolhouse and mustered all their forces to vote that the schoolhouse be moved. However, they neglected to designate a site and the schoolboard slyly moved the schoolhouse only a short distance. The disgruntled patrons had to wait for a year for another annual meeting to get the school to the location they wished.

The Souleville school has always been the center of activity in the community. It was the scene of early Sunday School gatherings (strictly non-denominational). An itinerant preacher, Mr. Hayes from Kearney, came frequently on horseback to preach. One of the Vanscoys was also qualified to preach in emergencies.

Square dances, with old-time fiddlers, were held there also. Since early days the Souleville Literary Society has been an institution in the community and was an active organization as late as 1927. Since then the school house (now a two-room structure with sliding partitions, stage and kitchen) has been the meeting place for the group and at present for the newly organized Hilltop Farm Bureau. At one time the school enrollment totalled 80.

Some of the early teachers recalled by old-timers Arthur Pritschau (brother of Will Pritschau, well-known market gardener and fruit grower, now 93), who taught the winter term of three months and walked across on the ice to the school; Ida Callen of Loup City (she later married Dr. Hawkins), who taught in 1877; a Miss Kilpatrick of Grand Island, and Miss Lillian Nightingale.

The one timber claim in the district was planted by W. H. Stephens of Rockville, and is now occupied by the McDonald family. Most of the old trees are still standing, and the grove has been the site of many a picnic throughout the years.

The "law" was represented by W. L. Leonard, justice of the peace. Old timers relate the story that as soon as word got around that he had attained that office, a couple arrived from some distance with a large family of children and requested the astonished justice that a marriage ceremony be performed. They explained that there had been

no one convenient to perform the rites and they hadn't got around to it sooner.

Four of the original settlers were living in 1948. George Young, 81, on the old homestead; his brother Frank, a resident of Sheldon, Ill., for some years; and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jensen who celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary recently.

The David Seiffert, Joe Young, and William McDonald farms are still occupied by the fourth generation of these pioneer families.

Wiggle Creek

The community of Wiggle Creek, south of Loup City, derived its name from the creek in the vicinity. Its identity came from the Welsh-speaking Daddows, (some of them born in Lancashire, England), and their relatives.

Mr. Joseph Daddow, Senior, and his younger sons came from Iowa to Sherman County in 1879. All spoke Welsh, and some had been miners. Many of the family were of short stature, a characteristic of the Welsh miners.

The children were John; Eliza (Mrs. Goldsworthy); Samuel; Joseph, Jr.; Anna (Mrs. Goodwin); Thomas; Nicholas, Fred. Two Goodwin sisters married Tom and Joseph Daddow; another Goodwin sister married Mr. Stephen Sweetland; while Henry Goodwin married Anna, the eldest Daddow sister. Throckmortons were Welsh.

Mr. Ira Daddow, son of Joseph Daddow, recalls that their school district was first No. 4, the Hawk school. Later a sod building was built, when Dist. 12 was "cut off" from Dist. 4. Next a one-room frame school, which included grades 9 and 10, was built in 1919. This was burned in 1920, to be replaced by the consolidated school building, of Dist. 93, built in 1922. Mr. Daddow added:

We were usually about three and a half miles from school, no matter which school we attended. There was a time when our family was in a district near Litchfield, but we attended the sod school because it was nearer. Our family had come from Iowa by covered wagon in 1882, so we knew what it was to do some walking.

Sunday School was first held in J. B. Swain's sod house, later in the sod school house of Dist. 36. If some itinerant preacher came along, there was also preaching in the school house. Joseph Linton Memorial Chapel of the M. E. Church, known as the Wiggle Creek Methodist Church, was built in 1904, and served by pastors from Loup City until 1948, although other denominations also held services there.

A literary society was held at the school each Friday night. There were spelling contests, speaking, debates. Chris Sorensen and Clifford Rein, champion debaters from Loup City High School, took part, in 1908, when Wiggle Creek had ten grades.

Near the schoolhouse was a flat piece of ground, with a few trees which made it a picnic site. Wiggle Creek always had a good ball team; they rode horseback to Austin, or some other challenging rival, and generated great enthusiasm.

After consolidated school No. 93 was built, a store was located at Wiggle Creek. It was later moved to Hazard, and converted into a cafe. There were also oil pumps, in charge of the store keeper.

When Mr. Stephen Sweetland became county treasurer in 1902, he moved to Loup City. Gradually others of the original settlers left. In 1913 Mr. Thos. Daddow built a brick opera house in Loup City, known as the Daddow Opera House, today the Liberty Theatre. When a business man remonstrated with him because it was an investment which promised small returns, Mr. Daddow replied: "I expect it is, but I've always wanted to do it". A few years later the Daddow Opera House was the scene of a Christmas reunion dinner, when over a hundred members of the family were present.

Today the Wiggle Creek school no longer furnishes high school instruction. The community spirit survives, carried on by new-comers.

Wilhelmshohe

This name, chosen for the postoffice established at the farm of Jacob Albers in Sept. 1879, was indication of the settlement of Germans in the vicinity. In the fall of 1878 two "advance agents", Jacob Albers and Frederick Erhman, came from New York City to Sherman County. They were looking up a possible location from a group of Germans who had decided to take advantage of cheap land in the west. Men from Austin met them at Kearney. They returned, and next spring a group came. George Benschoter states in his Book of Facts that those in the group were Bernard Kohlbeck, Jacob Albers, Frederick Ehrman, Theodore Ojendyk, John Oltman, Peter Henry, George Glinsman, Henry Lange, Fritz Schlueter, Henry Tangerman and Henry Schwartz. Mrs. Henry Schumann, daughter of Henry Lange does not think that all came together, but that the Germans settled near Germans.

A school schoolhouse and sod church were built at once. Dist. No. 26, organized July 7, 1879, had Jacob Albers as director, J. P. Taylor, moderator, and John Oltman treasurer. (Taylor's were also from New York State). This district reported 22 scholars in 1880, 28 in 1881. A frame building was built in 1887.

The sod church was the forerunner of the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Not all were Lutherans; Kohlbecks were Catholic; Henry Lange was not Lutheran.

On August 18, 1881 when reporting the Republican county convention, the editor called the Wilhelmshohe group, "the finest dressed delegation, with the chairman, Jacob Albers, in broadcloth with a stovepipe hat". Mr. Albers, of fine, erect carriage would stiffen until almost leaning backward when complimented upon his erectness, and say, "I was a soldier in de army of de Emperor." He later lived on the county farm north of Loup City, and served for many years as bailiff of county and district court.

Wilhelmshohe held a fair in 1880, attended by people from all parts of the county, since it had been well-advertised. (Book of Facts, p. 7).

The name of the postoffice became Zeven on Oct. 13, 1882, with Mr. Albers still postmaster. Perhaps Wilhelmshohe proved too long. When the B&M railroad located a station at the future town of Ashton in 1886, some of the Wilhelmshohe settlers moved to Ashton. Theodore Ojendyk came to Loup City in 1886, but took charge of the Keystone Lumber Company's Ashton yard in 1888, remaining until 1912. An organization, "Sons of Liberty" was ascribed to Wilhelmshohe by the St. Paul editor (April 4, 1881) and on Jan. 26, 1882 referred to Mr. Albers as the "heroic Son of Liberty bartender and postmaster of Wilhelmshohe".

Zeven postoffice was moved to Ashton, northeast of its former location. The Immanuel Lutheran Church which stood on land owned by Glinsman families was for many years one of the strongest rural churches in the county. In 1951 the little frame church and the two-story parsonage stand near the cemetery. The congregation transferred its meetings to the Evangelical Church at Loup City. It is the only rural church left intact; the parsonage, unoccupied for a number of years, is in a state of decay.

CHAPTER XVII

POLITICS IN SHERMAN COUNTY

One of the earliest newspaper reports of activity in Sherman County refers to organization of a Middle Loup Valley Grange, with E. S. Atkinson of the Loup City News elected Master. On April 1, 1874, a Temperance Lodge was organized. "Loup City Grangers had a very pleasant reunion"; several new members were initiated into the Loup City Grange"; the Grange Master at Loup City, editor of the Loup City News, wants to inaugurate political reform through a third party." (Omaha Weekly Bee, 1874, Apr. 1, 8, May 27, June 10, July 1).

By 1877, returns of Lower Loup, Upper Loup, and Oak Creek precincts, had election returns rejected "because of informality in the returns," according to the Election Record, Bk. I, Nov. 8, 1877. The debt incurred in the earliest months of the county's existence insured a difference of opinion which colored politics in Sherman County for many years.

The Republican party was well-organized. The Times, the Northwestern, and the Transcript, in 1887, all claimed to be Republican in politics. The Grand Island Independent, in analyzing the shooting of Willard by Richardson, traced it to the fight on the "Railroad Gang", with which Willard was aligned, and the "liberal" element. (G. I. Independent, June 23, 1887).

By 1890, the Farmer's Alliance became active in Sherman County. David Kay in Loup City began the publication of the Sherman County Citizen. (Jan. 30); the Litchfield Gazette, did not last long. Officers of the Sherman County Alliance, Nov. 20, 1891, were:

President, S. C. Skinner, Hazard; vice-president, Christ. Arthaud, Ashton; secretary-treasurer, J. Vandegrift, Austin; executive committee, W. H. Chapman, F. G. Starr, F. H. Kang-

san, J. C. Fletcher, G. Swigert; sergeant-at-arms, G. Zimmerman; door-keeper, Theo. McCosh.

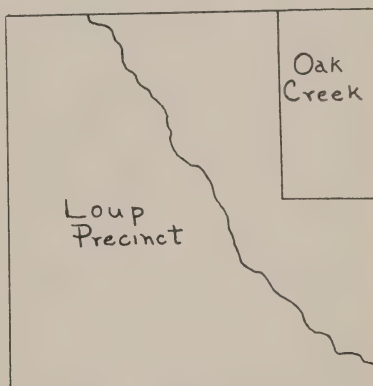
In April, it was announced that the Farmer's Alliance would start a paper with Jim Zink as editor. Later it was stated that Kay was assisting Ogle in publication of the Farmer's Alliance organ. Kay's Citizen was moved to the Walworth building in Jan., 1892. On August

SHERMAN COUNTY TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT

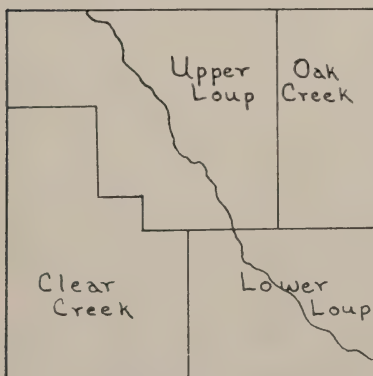
1873



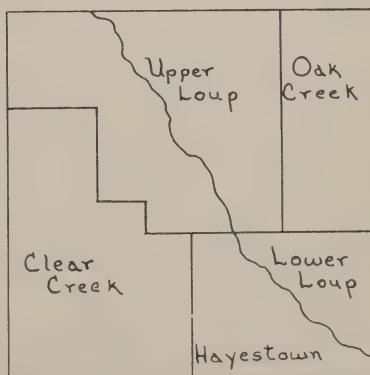
1875



1875



1877



9 the Times announced that the Democrats and Republicans of the county had fused. (Times, Jan. 30, July 14, 1890; April 3, 1891; Jan. 29, 1892). The Times added Independent to its name, on January 1, 1893.

The county election of 1893 listed two parties in Sherman County, Independent and Republican. The Independents carried the election.

The Times now espoused the politics of the People's Party (Populist,) but reported that the Independent party ticket "swept the county" (in 1895). Republicans, Populists and Independents campaigned in 1896. A Union Pacific "special" carried admirers to Grand Island to hear "the Great Commoner, W. J. Bryan". Independents were strong in the county election of 1897.

Party tickets in 1900 were Republican, Prohibitionist, Middle-of-the-Road Socialists, and the Fusion (Populists and Democrats). In 1902 the Temperance party was added to the list, and the Ashton News, a Socialist paper, had John F. Smith as editor. (Times, Apr. 11). Smith was secretary of local branch No. 5, Socialists of Sherman County. Several county officials were listed as Socialists.

Populists and Republicans dominated the scene in 1903-04. It was observed that District Judge Hostetler, elected in 1904, was the first Republican Judge in fourteen years. (Buffalo and Sherman Counties).

A split in the Republican party in 1906, with a radical element led by Geo. H. Gibson, was said to have been in part responsible for the election of Times-Independent Editor E. A. Brown to the Nebraska House of Representatives. The new primary law of 1907, free high school tuition, growth of the farmer's cooperative movement were regarded as fruits of the independent revolt.

The Non-Partisan League began holding meetings in Sherman County in 1917. C. A. Townsley and Geo. A. Randall of North Dakota appeared. The editor of the Times, C. F. Beusheusen, began an investigation of the League in 1920. The Ku Klux Klan revival between 1921-26 made little headway in Loup City. A Klan group from Arcadia marched into a union meeting of the three churches, held in the Presbyterian church, one Sunday evening in 1925, and left three envelopes on the pulpit. These contained \$10.00 for each pastor, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian.

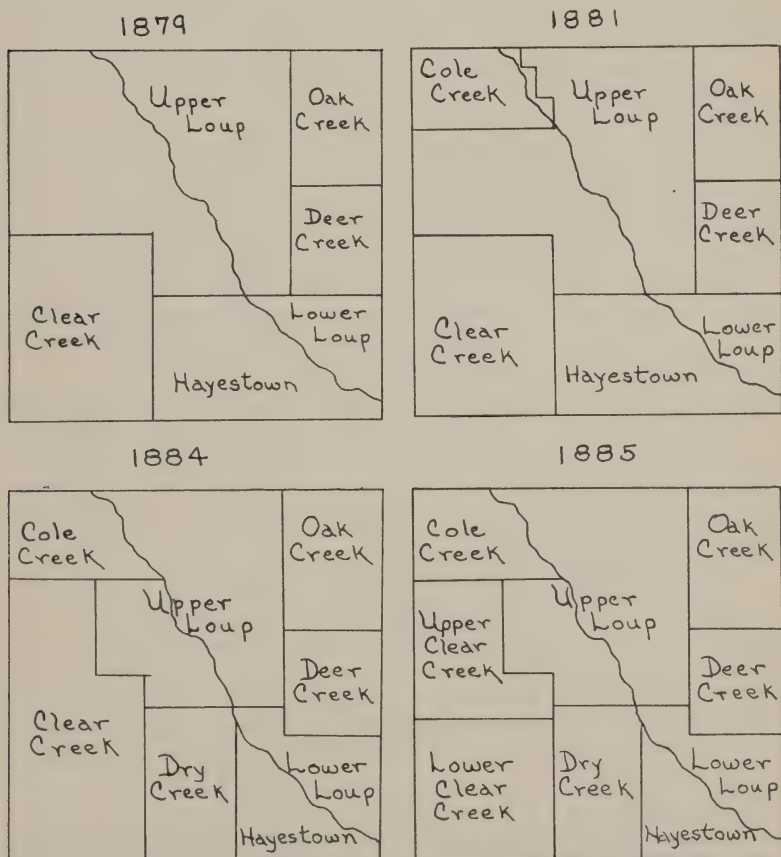
With the beginning of the recession and drouth of the '30's, two citizens' organizations, the Sherman County Tax-Payers League, (S. R. VIII, 627), C. W. Trumble, president; John Howe, vice-president; and Andrew Johnson, secretary; and the Citizen's Protective Association, headed by A. J. Johnson, and Dan McDonald, A. L. Zimmerman, S. A. Lewandowski, E. Janulewicz, John Lewandowski, Chris Christensen (Sup. Rec. VIII, 624), devoted much time to local problems, and made recommendations in the interest of economy to the county board. When the People's Standard became "A Farm Holiday paper", in 1932, it had less county news.

Following the Communist-inspired riot of June 14, 1936, a Vigilance Club, with Gus George, Troy Hansel, and C. S. Hager, was organized; H. A. Prince Grand Island attorney, addressed the group late in July. Activities of the federal government at local level, and World War II pushed politics into the background temporarily.

Sherman County has often shown a tendency to meet its problems in its own way. In an Anti-Horse Thief Association was formed on the west side of the county; on another occasion, an Anti-Prairie Fire group was organized. When a group of Sherman County farmers

made a trek to Chicago in the '30's, a collection was taken up to which business men contributed. One independent farmer paid his own way. When he discovered in Chicago that there meetings to which he was not admitted, he made inquiries which satisfied him that Communists were at the bottom of the movement.

SHERMAN COUNTY TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Before the days of radio, the parades and torch-light processions following elections; the election bets paid off by the loser wheeling the winner around the square in a wheelbarrow (Henry Wilson wheels George Gibson, 1896), the barbecues, such as the People's Independent ox-roast barbecue in Lang's grove, with "speaking" afterward, in Sept. 1892; the debates in schoolhouses; point to an intensity of feeling about questions of government. One effect of the enormous in-

debtedness of the early days of the county's existence has been to make the pay-as-you-go plan popular in the county, as shown when the present courthouse was constructed.

Indicative of early-day interest in politics was the sending of a sod house to Republican presidential candidate Benj. Harrison in the fall of 1888. It was built on a flat car, was 18 feet long and nine feet high, and filled with agricultural products of Sherman County, from corn to squash and pumpkins. On its outside whitewashed walls were two murals, with paintings of a railroad train and citizens. (Book of Facts, 55; Times, Oct. 4, 1888). Its construction was supervised by W. B. Wilbur of Litchfield, at that time manager of the Massasoit House of Loup City, the hotel south of the courthouse. The inscription read:

"Loup City sends offerings of respect and esteem to President-elect Harrison".

A picture of the sod house on the flat car, in front of the Union Pacific station, appeared on page 2 of the Nebraska Magazine, No. 3, a supplement to the Sherman County Times-Independent of Oct. 1907. The car reached Indianapolis, accompanied by Mr. Wilbur, on Dec. 7, 1888. By this time it showed signs of the wearing trip, and was a problem to the honoree. There had been talk of sending it on to Washington, D. C., for the inauguration, but it was finally dismantled by the railroad company on a sidetrack in Indianapolis. The editor of the Times-Independent felt that it had been a valuable means of advertising central Nebraska and its politics.

In its earlier years, Sherman County was actively Republican, with "mugwump" and "regular" elements bitterly antagonistic at the time of the Richardson-Willard affair. In recent years, following a transition period when some officials were listed as Socialist, the county has been Democratic. C. F. Beusheusen has been a tireless worker in the Democratic ranks.

Commission to Supervisor Form of County Government

Sherman County was organized under the commissioner form of county government, with three commissioners. (Comm. Rec. I, 1.) As population increased, the number of townships increased, beginning with the entire county polling at one voting place, the house of William Walt. Signers to the petition for organization were located on Oak Creek (east central), in the southeast corner, and on the Middle Loup near Loup City.

Oak Creek, in the northeast corner, was the first precinct cut off, in 1874, with four precincts provided on Sept. 8, 1875. (Comm. Rec. I, 48). Polling places were at Loup City (Upper Loup); at the home of Thos. N. Johnson, for Lower Loup; at the Cedarville postoffice (home of Enoch Gowin) for Clear Creek precinct, and at Christian Thode's for Oak Creek.

Lower Loup precinct was divided on Oct. 20, 1877, into two voting districts, by designating the land west of the Middle Loup as Hayestown. The home of Julius Buss, postmaster, was the polling place. In 1879, Deer Creek was cut off from lower Oak Creek, with school

district No. 26 the voting place for Deer Creek, and Daniel Jackson's home for Oak Creek. (Comm. Rec. I, 195, 308).

Cole Creek, in extreme northwest Sherman County, appeared in 1881. There was also a shift in boundaries. Balsora postoffice, the home of George Whitmore, was the polling place, (Ibid. 388, July 25). Dry Creek appeared in 1884. (Ibid. 507).

The change from commissioner to supervisor type of county government occurred in 1887, when the voters (Nov. 8, 1887) declared themselves for it. With it went a sweeping away of old boundaries and names, and the appearance of new ones. The records of the meetings give no information concerning the selection of names and definition of boundaries, which must have taken much time and thought. Undoubtedly the increased population due to coming of the railroads (U. P. in 1886, B&M, 1887), with the creation of the new towns, Litchfield and Hazard, Austin and Rockville, were a factor. There was also the idea that three men were easily swayed, in the hands of the right parties, and that each section of the county would be represented on the territorial basis, one supervisor from each township. At this time there was some refusal to serve when chosen as supervisor. (Comm. Rec. I, 311, 312). Prior to the change, Clear Creek had been divided into Upper and Lower Clear Creek in July 6, 1885. (Comm. Rec. 43, 311, 312). Washington, Elm, Harrison, Scott; Logan, Webster, Clay, Hazard; Loup City, Bristol; Oak Creek, Ashton, Rockville, townships were defined. With a square county, twelve might have seemed a logical number, but the diagonal course of the river across the county, and the fact that there could be no tie with an odd number of supervisors, were factors in the decision, undoubtedly. (Mr. J. P. Leininger, Interview, Aug. 16, 1941).

A state law of 1895 made it necessary to reduce the number of supervisors. Consequently the county was divided into seven districts.

Supervisor District No 1—Oak Creek and Ashton Townships; 2—Logan and Washington; 3—Elm, Clay, and Webster; 4—Loup City; 5—Rockville; 6—Hazard and Bristol; 7—Harrison and Scott.

(Comm. Rec. II, 459, Aug. 15, 1895).

To reduce the number of existing supervisors from thirteen to seven, in such cases where there were two supervisors from a newly-created district, a choice was made by guessing the page number in a book, according to Mr. J. P. Leininger, who was representative from Washington Township at the time.

Supervisors from Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, are elected in the odd-numbered years, and those from 2, 4, 6, in the even-numbered years, unless a vacancy occurs due to death, change of residence, or resignation. Under such circumstances, the remaining members make an appointment until the next election, although in case of a tie a special election is usually held.

For convenience, Logan Township, cut diagonally by the Middle Loup River, was voted two polling places in January, 1919. (Sup. Rec. VI, 467). With the two wards in Loup City, and a polling place at Austin (Jan. 1916, VI, 303), giving Loup City Township three polling

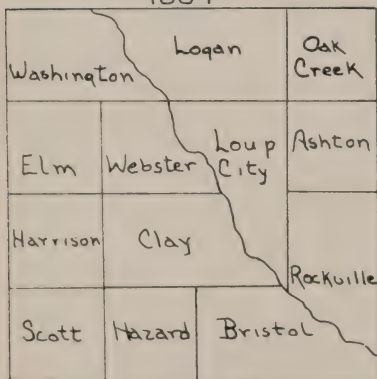
places, and the remaining eleven township one polling place, Sherman County has sixteen polling places.

Proposals to return to the commissioner form of county government have not met with success.

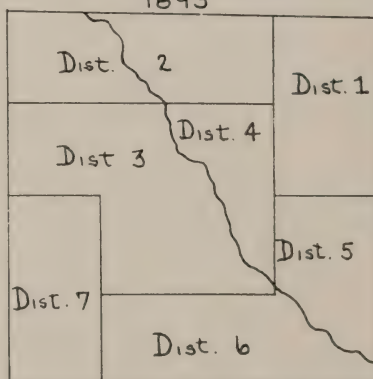
Sherman County has furnished no governor to Nebraska, but one was an early-day resident of Loup City. Governor Ezra Perrin Savage, lieutenant-governor who served as governor for sixteen months, 1901-03, with Chas. H. French had operated a feed, grain and exchange stable, also carried mail, passengers, and express, in 1881. The general horse barn was located east of the B&M station. (Misc. Rec. I, 114; Nov. 29, 1880). He was admitted to the Nebraska bar and joined the Masonic Lodge in Loup City, although his home was Sargent at the time he became lieutenant-governor. (Appearance Docket, I, 59).

SHERMAN COUNTY

TOWNSHIP
ORGANIZATION
1887



DISTRICT
ORGANIZATION
1895



After the Loup City grade school was occupied, he made a stop in Loup City in 1902, and was proudly shown through the building by an old Loup City friend, J. S. Pedler, at that time president of the school-board. The pupils were greatly impressed to see a state official of such prominence.

Two state institutions were "fathered" by Sherman County legislators. W. H. Conger, senator in 1885, was responsible for the location of the Soldier's and Sailors Home at Grand Island. Aaron Wall, senator in the legislature, in 1901 fostered the location of the State Teachers' College at Kearney.

Sherman County was unsuccessful in securing the location of state institutions within its borders. In 1891 Pile and Mohler of Fremont made it known that they were anxious to locate a normal school. Loup City appointed a committee, secured an offer of the block north of the Catholic Church from the Barker estate, but in the end, Wayne secured the prize. Loup City was a contender when the Boys Industrial

School and the Tuberculosis Hospital was located at Kearney. It is said that the opposition of a prominent citizen to the hospital blocked the award.

W. R. Mellor was President of the State Board of Agriculture in 1904, 1905, and secretary from 1908 to 1917. During the time he held these positions, many Sherman County residents held "jobs" during the annual State Fair. In 1950, Mr. Mellor was named to the Nebraska Hall of Achievement as "Builder of the Nebraska State Fair". Dr. H. Clayde Filley of the University's Agricultural Engineering Department, cited increased attendance, improved exhibits, enlarged grounds, and new buildings, among them the grandstand for which Mr. Mellor himself drew the plans. Mr. Mellor had died in 1949.

Two Sherman County citizens served as chaplains in the Nebraska State Legislature. The Rev. S. P. Dillon was chaplain of the House in 1889, and the Rev. J. M. Snyder held a similar position in the Senate in 1895. Both men were Civil War veterans.

In early years, interest in township offices was high, although the office of justice of the peace sometimes went begging. In recent years, because of the centralization of functions with the county and state, there is often little interest.

Present township officials, who serve a two-year term, are given, with addresses. (List from office of county clerk). A township report, filed and printed in the county newspaper is printed annually. These reports are required by the State Auditor, with a standard system of bookkeeping demanded.

Oak Creek Township: Clerk, Hubert Spotanski treasurer, Louis Stanczyk; Justice of the Peace, Eugene C. Grudzinski. (All addresses Ashton).

Logan Township: Clerk, Chas. McCarville; treas., Donald Krolikowski; J. P., Kenneth G. Johnson (all addresses, Loup City).

Washington Township: Clerk, J. G. Frost; treas., Marion Burns; J. P., J. P. Welty. (All, Arcadia).

Elm Township: Clerk, W. L. Vocke, Jr.; treas. Harold Johnson (both Litchfield); J. P., Chester Adams (Loup City).

Webster Township: Clerk, C. H. Gilbert; treas., Fritz Schwaderer; J. P., Lyle Smith (all Loup City).

Loup City Township: Clerk, O. F. Peterson, Jr.; treas., William Lewandowski; J. P., Wm. Couton (all Loup City).

Ashton Township: Clerk, Anton S. Jankowski; treas., Stanley A. Maiefski; J. P., Mike Scydick (all Ashton).

Rockville Township: Clerk, Carl Hehnke; treas., Herbert Plambeck; J. P., Paul L. Maciekjewski (First address, Rockville, others, Ashton).

Clay Township: Clerk, H. Rademacher; treas., Bern Wilkie; J. P., Floyd K. Janulewicz (all Loup City).

Harrison Township: Clerk, Roy E. Stephens; treas., Herschel Diefenbaugh; J. P., Dee Minshull (all Litchfield).

Scott Township: Clerk, Bernard Royle; treas., Joe A. Siegel (both Litchfield); J. P., Tracy Mullen, Hazard.

Hazard Township: Clerk, Lawrence Otte; treas., John Erazim; J. P., Raymond Lade (first, Litchfield, last two, Hazard).

Bristol Township: Clerk, John Gudenrath; treas., Frank Landrigan; (Rockville); J. P., Ray Guzinski, Ravenna.

CHAPTER XVIII

AS IT GREW, A MISCELLANY

1. Two Marriages in One Evening

Loup City Romance

One of Them A Runaway Match, and the Other Unthought Of Ten Minutes Before the Event. Lively Times in the Capital City of Sherman County.

Frank Ingram, probate judge of Sherman County, was called upon to perform a marriage ceremony for the first time on the evening of the 8th of April. The happy couple were Robert Russell, one of the commissioners of Sherman County, and Miss Anna Flint of Beaver Creek, and although the old gentleman was opposed to the match, it took a good team, an active man, and a six-shooter to bring on the prize. We are assured that the match is a good one, and they have a host of friends who swear the match was made in heaven.

On the same evening a young lady who formerly lived in Kearney was present, caught the matrimonial fever, and a young man who was sleeping nearby was awakened, and it was decided to perform the ceremony at once. The license was therefore issued, the twain made one, and retired in good order. (Central Nebraska Press, Kearney, Nebraska. April 16, 1874).

Robert W. Russell was the first county judge. He resigned to become county commissioner on Apr. 7, 1874, (Comm. Rec. I), being replaced by Frank Ingram, whose marriage license to Fannie Taylor had been issued by his friend Russell on Dec. 18, 1873. Ingram now issued one for Russell.

G. E. Benschoter, a boy in his teens at the time, gives this explanation of the two marriages in one evening. (Book of Facts, p. 10). Ingram's house, which also served as a hotel, was crowded that evening. Ruth Sholes was an eighteen-year old maid at the hotel. It was decided by Ingram and his wife that if Mitchell Mason, also employed by them, and Ruth were married, there would be accommodations for all. He continues:

Accordingly the contracting parties were consulted, and readily consented. Ruth donned her best calico, Mitchell put on a new pair of overalls over those he already had on, the whole town was called out to witness the ceremony, and the knot was tied.

The happy couple afterwards located on a claim four miles south of Arcadia.

("Mitch" Mason was a witness in the McKellar trial, May 30, 1877. App. Docket, I, 21. As to the Kearney newspaper account, O. B. Willard, editor of the Loup City News, later the Sherman County Times, frequently visited his father, the Rev. Wm. Willard, in Kearney. Alfred Flint was an English homesteader in the southern part of the county, owner of sheep.)

2. Gold Seekers from Sherman County

Mr. Benschoter also describes how the gold-rush to the Black Hills struck Loup City. When a party of gold seekers from Iowa enroute to the Black Hills stopped in Loup City in

February, 1876, a number of local citizens "caught the fever". While ox-teams rested and supplies were replenished, Charles Sisters, Esau Belden, B. F. Bunnell, Manly Cople, Reuben French, Almon Benschoter, M. A. Hartley, Gene Hall, Charles Adgate, Mr. Fredenburg, C. E. Rosseter, and E. Gilbert prepared to join the caravan.

Heavy lumber wagons were loaded with provisions, guns, and ammunition. Horses were traded for oxen. On Febr. 21, 1876, the party left Loup City. The route went from the Loup country across to the Niobrara Valley, from there to the Snake River, and on to the Black Hills. Some Indians were sighted on the trip, but no harm was done. Several of the party were in the Hills at the time of the Custer Massacre.

The families of the men experienced anxiety during the time they were gone, since there was no means of communication. Experience was the only gain resulting from the trip. (Book of Facts, 40).

3. Fourth of July, 1876

Howard W. Lang, of Litchfield, writing to G. E. Benschoter, editor of the Nebraska Record in October, 1915, recalled the Centennial Celebration of July 4, 1876, held at the Francis Lang homestead three fourths of a mile south of the future Litchfield.

A large elm tree was the site chosen, bushes and rose briars were cut down, and a dance begun. "Bob" Hodges was fiddler and Mart Brewer "caller". Bob's three tunes included his favorite "All Around the Market House the Monkey Chased the Weasel." Mart's calls had only two changes, "Right Hand to Partner, Left Element. (Allemande!). Double-up the Elbow, Keep a-Hookin' On".

As most of the dancers had shoes badly worn and run down at the heel, they were soon removed and placed near the fiddler. This led to Mart Brewer's accident. Coming in on the home stretch, in the "hook-on-in", barefooted, and with his pants rolled up, Mart's toes caught a big rose brier. Mart came in on one leg, kicking with the other, trying to remove the rose brier.

At noon grubbaskets were opened and the contents spread on the ground. All had wild gooseberry pie, minus the sugar. The big elm tree made shade for all the settlers there, from Ravenna to Broken Bow.

Jim Mackeduffer was there with a wagon load. He had a span of wild ponies, and when he drove up, the first thing he did was to run out the lariat ropes, one each way, and then unhook the traces. When he got ready to go, he headed them up to the wagon, hooked up and pulled in his ropes, and the show was over.

4. Early Day Loup City

Mrs. Minnie Wall Johansen, in 1933, wrote her early recollections of Loup City.

Houses were moved out on claims and the town had dwindled down to eight families, in 1877, consisting of the Wm. Benschoter, H. A. Gladding, Reuben French, Green Brown, C. H. French, John Harkins and one other. (Mrs. J could not recall).

There was a vacant building on the corner where the First National Bank now stands; one where the Old Loup City Bank was; also a small two-room vacant house on the corner where the clinic now stands; one across from the C. H. French

house (now occupied by Mrs. Ruth Long); another where Bert Fiebig (now Blincow's) live; a schoolhouse and a log jail. There was also the Rosseter Hotel.

This little cluster of buildings comprised the village when we arrived in December, 1877. (Judge Wall had lived a year at Sweetwater before coming to Loup City). We accepted the house near the Swanson drug store and as we had a number of horses and no barn on the place we used the burned courthouse to stable our horses. The walls were still standing and my father put poles across from one wall to another, then covered these with hay to make a fine place for our stock. This worked until spring when a big prairie fire came down from the north and burned off the roof and destroyed some of our horses.

This was in the spring of 1878. At that time we went to Kearney or Grand Island for our supplies as there was no store; but during the same year William Baillie started a store (west of the Swanson drug store). Times began to improve. That spring the B&M paid their delinquent taxes and the money was used to build a new courthouse. This was done by using the walls of the old building that were burned.

In 1878-79 immigration started from the east. The B & M began advertising their lands, sent an agent here and erected an immigrant house for the use of buyers. Every stage from Kearney was loaded with landseekers. The stage ran daily and business was thriving. Business houses were built and our town began to grow.

On a Fourth of July we had a big celebration, the town was crowded, every one was dressed in his best, and the bowery was full of young and old dancing, when a big hailstorm struck. A few miles north of town there was almost a cloudburst, and in just a few minutes Dead Horse was a roaring torrent.

Each Fourth of July we had a big celebration with all kinds of sports; prizes were offered, and there was keen competition. One year several girls competed for the prize for the best horsemwoman. Bowers were erected out of willow poles on the courthouse square, and dancing always lasted until morning.

I remember one year when the Mother Hubbard dress first came into style. Every girl in town followed the fashion. My dress was a blue lawn with white roses, a big sash around my waist, low slippers that had big black bows, earrings and a bow in my hair. In the evening we changed our dresses, but not the style.

We had glorious times riding over the hills, had a riding club. We hunted deer and jackrabbits with greyhounds; went fishing; all our sports were clean and wholesome. Lemonade and candy on the Fourth was a treat. Ice-cream was unheard of in the '70's. I remember going to the county superintendent's home, just a little barefooted girl with a slat sunbonnet on, and saw a dish of red and white striped stick candy in the center of the table. I told my mother that when I got big I would have candy on my table every day. I have never seen any candy that looked just like that candy did to me that day.

5. The Fourth of July, 1878

Mr. Benchoter described the aftermath of the Fourth of July celebration at Loup City in 1878: (Book of Facts, 41):

People from all parts of the county were there. The weather was fine until four o'clock, when a furious rain and hail storm came up. The area between Dead Horse and the river suf-

ferred most, since there had been a cloudburst at the head of the creek. The newly-completed courthouse was opened to people, who secured a violinist and staged a dance.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wharton were among those kept in town. At home, Katie, the elder child, about twelve, climbed on a table and holding her small brother Will, on a pillow, managed to crawl through a hole in the roof. (The farm was east of Dead Horse). She made her way around the head of the creek to the home of Jacob Albers, according to her brother, Will Wharton, who heard his parents retell the story. The Whartons, along with many others, lost livestock and machinery. (Interview, Wm. Wharton, Febr. 16, 1948).

6. The "Hard" Winter of 1880-81

George Benschoter states that the snow began on October 15, 1880, and lay at a depth of three feet on the level, and as deep as fifteen feet in ravines. Not only were the settlers short of feed for their stock, but it was almost impossible to go to town or mill with a wagon or on horseback.

T. C. Chamberlain, living on Clear Creek, related his efforts to save his livestock from starving. He had bought a stack of wheat in the vicinity of Sweetwater where there was a mill. Whenever the weather permitted, he hauled a small amount home.

In early spring he made a trip by horseback to Kearney, some fifty miles. "That was the worst of my experience. Every ravine, creek or 'draw' that I crossed I had to swim. My pants and boots were full of slush ice and snow." (Book of Facts, p. 50).

Little flour was used that winter. Twenty-five pounds of shorts or cornmeal was a lucky ration. Many lived for months on cracked corn ground in a coffee mill. The H. Fiebig family, north of Loup City, had the scantest living imaginable that winter. When illness later took three children from the home, things looked dark indeed. But they lived to see better times in Sherman County.

There was heavy snow in 1891, some of it still hidden in canyons in May. The winter of 1914-15 was also a winter of many heavy snows. Such seasons usually meant a good small grain crop, but corn, planted late, was often caught by an early frost. The winter of 1948-49 is the most recent winter of snows which hampered traffic and caused hardship. But the estimate, that one half the stock in Sherman County perished because of the winter of 1880-81, has never been repeated. Modern transportation and communication prevent such losses.

Mr. Wilbur S. Waite, Sr., states that the winter of '80-'81 surpassed any other in central Nebraska. His parents had located on a farm two and a half miles north of the county line, in Valley County, four miles east of Arcadia. After viewing the land, his father had hired a 14x24 story and a half house, and a dugout barn built. With his wife and five sons, they came on from Indianola, Iowa, for their first winter in the new home.

The house was merely walls of drop siding, with a roof above, no tar paper, no shiplap, so it offered scant protection against the biting wind which accompanied the deep snows.

There were two rooms below, and two, the bedrooms, above, Mr. Waite recalls. As for the stable, there was barely room for the team. The cow was sheltered by using boxes to make a wall to the west, the house furnished the north wall, with more crate lumber for a roof.

At the beginning of a two-weeks storm the last week of January and first of February, the cow was blanketed, but shook with cold. Finally Mrs. Waite, more practical than her husband, decided that the cow must be brought into the "parlor". To her husband's protests she merely replied that it was their living, and must be saved. She herself went out, and untied the cow, who willingly followed her into the room, where quarters were arranged.

Meanwhile the younger boys remained upstairs in bed most of the time. The father tied a scarf around his head, put on his overcoat, and day after day, paced the kitchen floor vowing to leave and never return as soon as spring came. Food ran low, so that grinding grain in the coffee mill became a necessity.

However, when the father finally ventured forth to buy provisions, a thaw came. He dared not cross the "draws", which had been filled with snow when he left. Unhitching the team, he mounted one horse, led the other, and holding the sacks of groceries, managed to swim the team across. The wagon remained on the far side for two weeks.

The family did not return to Iowa, and next winter, '81-82, enjoyed a mild season. Mr. Wilbur S. Waite knows from experience why Missouri River experts, during the floods of 1952, stated that the water was never so high, except in 1881. He can still see the canyons near his father's farm filled with swirling water. (Interview, Febr. 9, 1950; June 10, 1952).

7. Arrival of the Union Pacific, 1886

A branch line of the Union Pacific, at that time known as the Omaha and Republican Valley Railroad, reached Loup City, Monday, May 31, 1886. A special edition of the Sherman County Times, called the Daily Times, described its reception:

the train swept up to its landing within the city limits and was welcomed by booming cannon and playing band, besides a great number of our citizens enlivening the scene with their presence. Agent Stedman and Conductor McBride with their engineer, fireman and brakeman were greeted at the platform by friends who introduced several ladies to these jolly boys in blue uniforms and brass buttons. Several beautiful bouquets of flowers were presented to the different ones of the train crew by the ladies gathered to greet them. The boys expressed grateful thanks for the courtesies shown them.

A gentleman was heard to remark Monday that he never saw a more enthusiastic "get-up and get" set of people in his life than Loup City is composed of. The big parade of the G.A.R. was indeed an object in itself. There was a joyful rendition of national anthems at the church Monday.

Mrs. Gust of Rockville was a passenger on the first train. The engineer was J. B. O'Bryan, who was to become a life-time resident of Loup City.

The big barbecue to celebrate the coming of the railroad was held on June 4, 1886, "the Fourth of July one month in advance", Editor Willard of the Times called it. The O & R. V. Railroad Company

ran a free excursion train from St. Paul, said to have consisted of 13 passenger coaches. One old-timer recalls it as having two engines, another recalls that it was elaborately decorated with bunting. The mayor and city council of Omaha, Governor Dawes, prominent men from various points, and citizens of neighboring towns were aboard. The engineer was J. B. O'Bryan; fireman, Clarence Mackley; mail clerk, Ira Paine; brakeman and baggagemaster, Dick McKinnie; conductor, Mr. McBride.

A crowd had gathered at the station to greet the visitors. Mrs. C. J. Tracy recalled that as the train came into view, Director C. J. Wheeler of the Loup City Silver Cornet Band rushed up to his wife, saying, "The train's coming. Where's my baton?" Mrs. Wheeler located the baton, the director took his place, and as the train came to a stop, played "My Country, 'Tis of Thee".

Again flowers were presented, Mrs. Dodge making the presentation to Engineer O'Bryan, while Conductor McBride was honored by E. G. Kreichbaum, prominent local merchant.

Engineer O'Bryan recalled that when the train stopped at Rockville, those who came aboard at that place were compelled to climb to the top of the cars or stand on the steps. Just as he received the signal to start, a woman with a little child tried to get on. Superintendent Norton was riding in the cab with Engineer O'Bryan, who was ordered to stop. The lady and her child were taken into the cab. The train was said to have been so heavily loaded that the track rails spread in three places between Loup City and Boelus.

Mrs. Tracy also recalled that many of the townspeople had guests for dinner that day. Since her father, Elias Brewer, was in the furniture business, his guests were a furniture dealer and his wife from Grand Island.

For the mass of guests, the barbecued fat ox and fat hog were the main feature. The animals had been butchered by the city butcher, James Landers, and his helper, George Thompson, later of Arcadia. Charles Gasteyer, local baker, roasted the ox and hog in his bakery oven. Will Wharton recalled that Mr. and Mrs. Charles French and his parents did the carving, after Mr. Landers had quartered the ox with his cleaver.

Coffee was served with the meat and bread, Mr. Benschoter states, by Mrs. J. S. Pedler, Mrs. C. E. Rosseter, Mrs. Thos. Inks, and Mrs. G. F. Hunter, although Mrs. Tracy recalls that Mrs. Hunter also had guests in her home. Will Wharton remembered the long, old-fashioned sweet cracker, and cookies with red sugar frosting donated by the merchants. Since he was to help his parents by doing errands, Mr. Wharton felt that he missed much. Mrs. Tracy's brother, Frank Brewer, ran an ice-cream stand, and because the day was warm, had a complete sell-out.

An elaborate program was outlined in the "Daily Times". It began "Minute Guns fired at sunrise by Capt. Winkleman's Battery". Old timers recalled this event as either the pounding of powder on anvils, on the hill south of reservoir hill, or the firing of a small brass cannon.

Details of the parade are given, as to formation and route, along West Avenue (north of the courthouse) and Grand Central Avenue (Main Street). The bands and special guests rode in carriages to the grounds, the open prairie of the block where the Hospital Annex now stands. The block now occupied by the library and hospital at that time contained a bank, hardware store, two-story opera house, flour and feed store and other buildings.

Officer of the day was Judge Aaron Wall of Loup City. The reception committee consisted of: Robert Taylor, E. G. Kriebbaum and W. H. Lalk, merchants; George H. and W. T. Gibson, contractors; E. S. Hayhurst, hardware dealer; C. J. Oden Dahl, druggist; William Benschoter and C. E. Rosseter, two of earliest settlers; T. S. Nightingale, attorney; O. B. Willard, editor; John L. Hawk, R. J. Brown, Thos. Inks, farmers; J. Phil. Jaeger, merchant; G. W. Hunter, lawyer.

Orations were delivered by Gen. J. C. Cowin, A. H. Hamer and F. G. Connor of Kearney, lawyers, Judge Wall of Loup City, with the principal address by Governor Dawes. Will Wharton recalls the sports of the afternoon, wheelbarrow races around the courthouse square, racing, baseball, catching greased pigs, and climbing a greased pole. (Mr. Henry Jenner explains that the secret of this feat lay in having a sack of sand between the contestant and the pole.)

Governor Dawes estimated the crowd at 5,000. When the train departed in the evening, the visitors must have had an enjoyable day. Mrs. C. J. Tracy recalls that the wife of the furniture dealer came to the coach window greatly distressed. Two men in the berth above them were fighting, and her husband had offered them a dollar if they would vacate the place. Evidently some of the visitors had taken literally the invitation which read, "The city is yours today". It was, indeed, in the words of contemporary George Benschoter, "a day of rejoicing".

8. Loup City in 1887

What coming to Sherman County meant to a young man is described in this letter, written from Grand Island, October 11, 1887, by A. B. Outhouse, future lumberman of Loup City, to his fiancée in southern Illinois. "A. B.", as he was called, had left Omaha by train at 8:30 p.m., arriving in Grand Island at 3:30 a.m. the next morning.

I will go from here to Loup City at 5 p.m. today. A party from Omaha is to meet me there. I am to look at a lumber yard at Loup City. I don't know that I will make a deal but I want to see that part of the state.

There was a heavy frost last night. It froze ice and the wind is chilly. This (Grand Island) is a nice little city of 1200 population with two railroads and some fine buildings. Improvements are going up all the time. They have street cars and all the conveniences any city has.

Mr. Outhouse had come from Carlyle, Ills., forty-eight miles east of St. Louis. His next letter was written from Loup City, on the stationery of the St. Elmo Hotel, Loup City, Nebraska. C. L. Drake, Prop., Rates, \$2.00 per day.

Dear Mary,

This town, as all other western towns, is made up of young men. They are very friendly. A good part of them are

single and board at this hotel where I am stopping. This town has three banks, three lumber yards, two hotels, three churches, (Methodist, Catholic and one other), two railroads, one mill run by water power. The courthouse is a very common brick building. The town has been here thirteen years. The first railroad reached the town eighteen months ago.

The party and I have been talking business. They made me a very good proposition,— I don't think if I should go into business I would get rich in a day—. If I should go into the lumber business they would want me to start soon. I had some notion of going to see Charles Johnson, and will if I don't make a trade here. (C. F. Johnson, from an adjoining county in Ills., was homesteading at that time, was a county superintendent of schools of Sherman County).

One that has never been west cannot imagine how high the excitement runs. You would imagine they were just on the eve of moving. They may come into town, put up a good building, but that is no reason on earth why they should be here the next day. All on earth they talk about is money. Some of these young men who have money make a great deal of it.

I feel as though I want to try this country, or rather the west, a few years, to see what my luck would be. One man told me he made \$5,000.00 in Omaha in two years. Came there with \$365.00, but of course he had help.

Thus wrote a future Sherman County citizen. Mr. Outhouse made the deal with the Rust-Owens Lumber Company which had installed the lumber yard, managed by the Owens brothers, John L. and "Jim". It was owned by the Rusts of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and the Owens; F. M. Jaynes was general manager. As manager, Mr. Outhouse started branch yards at Ashton and Rockville. Later the Keystone Lumber Company, as it was called, had yards at Boelus and Schaupps, closed out one of the Rust Owens at Sargent, and eventually acquired ownership of all five yards. He was also for a time a co-partner in a lumber yard at Arcadia, Nebraska.

When he returned to Illinois, his most interesting stories, were of the shooting of one Loup City editor by another, and about the start of an English paper-chase. Following their marriage on Nov. 28, 1887, the couple came at once to Omaha, and from there to Loup City. They were obliged to live at the St. Elmo from December until the following April, because of a housing shortage. One morning Mr. Outhouse left his purse, with a considerable amount of cash, under the pillow, but it was returned intact by an honest maid. During the blizzard of January, 1888, the St. Elmo was filled with "drummers", travelling salesmen, so that there was plenty of lively company.

Advertisement in the Times of June 2, 1887, indicate the business ventures of the time. The list is given as it appears, with no attempt at classification:

Boehm's Central State Brewery, Grand Island, Nebraska; W. H. Conger, Attorney and Counsellor-at-Law; Wm. Townsend, Dealer in Grain, Livestock, Implements, Rockville, Nebraska; L. Williams, Draying and Hauling; Frank Simpson, Harness; J. D. Ford, Pennsylvania Coal; A. J. Kearns, Physician and Surgeon; Samuel S. Penepacker, Real Estate Broker, Money to Loan; Charles A. Blackman, Wines, Liquors, Cigars; The First National Bank, Lee Love, Pres., A. P. Culley, Cashier; A. E. Charlton, Ass't. Cashier; F. J. Jones, Farm Machinery, McCormick Steel Harvester and Binder; The Pioneer Furniture Store, E. Brewer; Kearney Nurseries, N. A. Baker, Prop., Kearney, Nebraska; G. W. Hunter, Attorney at Law, Collections and Live

Stock Insurance; Ralph Richards, Plain and Commercial Plastering; Wilkinson and Co., Meat Market; Owens (W. T.) and James, Contractors and Builders; Campbell and Gowin, Real Estate Agents, Cedarville (Litchfield); G. M. Raymond, surveyor.

9. Blizzard of '88

Lydia French (Mrs. H. J. Johansen), was teaching the Moon School, Dist. 14, west of town, the winter of '87-'88. She recalls the storm of Jan. 12, which began in the late morning. The cold increased during the day, so that the children did not leave the school-house. During the night, men came with lanterns and shovels. The children were taken to the house of the nearest neighbor. There were 17 pupils, four from the Schuyler Reynolds family, three from Knights, two or three from Gilberts, one from Baillie's, and one from Lay's. The men who came for the children were Charles and Albert Knight, and James McDonald. (Times, Jan. 1933).

County superintendent of schools, H. L. Burns, later stated that he believed the reason no Sherman County teacher or pupils lost their lives in this blizzard was because of instructions to have plenty of fuel on hand, to send children home if a storm threatened, but not to send them out alone in a storm.

John Lofholm's lived at Round Grove, but Mr. Lofholm was working at R. J. Brown's on January 12. By noon the storm was so bad that Mr. Lofholm started for home, following Brown Creek. When he struck the wooden frame built over the spring used for water, he knew it was time to turn north toward his log cabin. Mrs. Lofholm with their four children were safe. (Miss Byrdee Lofholm, Aug. 9, 1951).

P. S. Bogatz recalls that the skies were clear that January morning, the air warm and mild. A surprise dance was staged at the Bogatz home when eight couples arrived. With the eleven members of the Bogatz family, this made twenty-seven in the house.

When the violins arrived at seven in the evening the dancing began. By nine the snow was dense. The men thought they'd try to reach home, but the temperature had dropped from what seemed like 30 degrees above to that much below in the two hours. The men went together to feed the stock, asking those inside to fire a shotgun if they (the men) weren't back within a reasonable time. By the third day all food was gone, but that night the storm had passed and all reached their homes safely.

(This was a contrast to the drouth of '92. As Mr. Bogatz recalls, hogs sold for 25c a head. Cattle were driven to pastures, but by the second year there was no meat. A preacher paid \$200.00 for the first carload of corn. Mr. Bogatz also recalls that in 1876 grasshoppers stopped a train near Columbus for three hours.) Ashton Herald, Apr. 21, 1933.

Mr. W. R. Mellor's story of the blizzard of '88 was told in the Sherman County Times, Jan. 28, 1915. Miss Mattie Roberts, a teacher of the lower grades, boarded with the Mellors, who lived in the middle Pyke house, west of the Presbyterian church. At the noon hour four

pupils had remained at school when she came to her boarding place. When Miss Roberts attempted to return (house where Mrs. Hancock now lives), she was forced to turn back.

At the grammar school on the hill, J. W. Conger was sliding down a big drift on Dead Horse Creek. When he reached the bottom, the blizzard had suddenly struck. With difficulty he made his way up the bank west of the schoolhouse. Professor Carlton and most of the children stayed at the schoolhouse. One of the Jaeger children lost the way, and was found half-frozen behind a shock of corn. It was three weeks before trains reached Loup City.

Mamie Ojendyk (Mrs. W. C. Dunker) wrote her recollections of the blizzard of '88 (letter, Febr. 15, 1952):

There were ten or more pupils in school that day. At the time I was eleven years old. When we went to school in the morning there was a little snow on the ground, but a beautiful, calm day. The children were all out on the school grounds playing ball during the noon hour, when all of a sudden a strange wind came out of the northwest, with a fine, heavy snow, so thick we could hardly reach the schoolhouse, and had to guess our directions fifty feet away.

The town of Ashton was small, just newly built, so this schoolhouse, Dist. 16, was a mile south of Ashton by the railroad track. All parents came for their children in the raging storm. We had to go together by way of the railroad track over a bridge. The track helped us find our way.

My father, Theodore Ojendyk, decided to go home. We lived on the farm a mile southwest of Ashton, while our house in town was being built, for my father was to become manager of the Keystone Lumber Company's yard there.

We had to follow the long range hill. After we got a little ways my father said we were on the wrong side of the hill and would have to go back to the bottom of this hill. Then we struck the right road. It was dusk by the time we reached home.

My father had worn around his head one of those long knitted old-fashioned shawls that men wore in those days in bad weather. He wrapped this shawl around my head and froze his ears, but we were thankful to reach home safely.

Mr. W. C. Dunker told of his experiences in the blizzard of '88.

We were in a sod schoolhouse. The teacher wanted to let us go home, but I told her we would not be able to get there. The coal box was outside the schoolhouse. Everytime I went outside to get a bucket of coal I had to clean out my eyes; the snow was like fine sand. At 3 p.m. we went together to the farmhouse of a man named Witte, a quarter of a mile from the schoolhouse. We stayed there until the next day. Our home was one and a half miles northwest from the school.

Sherman County collected money for Etta Shattuck, the Valley County teacher who froze her arms and legs during the blizzard. When she died, it was sent to another teacher victim, Louise Royce of Plainview. (Times, Febr. 9, 1888.)

10. Trade Fair and Board of Trade

Loup City had a Trade Fair on July 4, 1889, when business houses entered floats. The float of the Keystone Lumber Company for the Diamond Jubilee Parade, July 5, 1948, was a replica of the one

entered by that firm in 1889. The Union Pacific and the St. Paul Bands appeared, as well as Loup City's Cornet Band.

A Board of Trade was organized March 1, 1889. It was promoted by D. R. Adams of Kansas City; its object was "to promote the commercial, manufacturing and general interests of the city of Loup City and Sherman County, Nebraska." Officers were A. P. Culley, president; W. R. Mellor, vice-president; J. W. Long, secretary; and J. C. Edmonson, treasurer; Directors were C. L. Adams, Dr. E. H. Kittell, Chas. Stedman, H. M. Mathews.

When Loup City Township voted bonds for the proposed canal in 1890, the Northwestern (April 1, 1890) reported that the Farmer's Alliance opposed the bonds, and that farmers who had brought a load of hay for the celebration thought better of the matter and took their hay home. The winners celebrated the evening with E. L. Drake's bus, drawn by a spanking team of coachers, decorated with flags and bunting, leading a procession of citizens on foot. The band appeared. Bonfires burned until midnight.

11. Attempts at Manufacturing

"Loup City can never become great with nothing but agriculture to depend upon", wrote E. A. Brown, editor of the Times-Independent, March 17, 1893.

This feeling may have prompted a number of minor projects in Loup City. There was a broom factory owned by a Mr. Vaughan in 1895. D. A. Jackson raised sixteen acres of fine brome corn on his farm at Hayestown in 1897 and would run his factory all winter. He continued in business until 1902. In 1899 he stored broom straw in an empty corn crib belonging to Adam Schauapp, near the railroads. He was particular about the way the straw was hung, so that it was straight and strong. (C. C. Owens, Dec. 10, 1951; Times-Independent, Oct. 15, 1897; 1902).

Cigar manufacturing was carried on at Loup City in 1907 by Clarence Reynolds. His brands were Gilt Edge, Royal Blue, and "Bob Starr". Oscar Baltrox, located in Loup City in 1907, moved to North Platte. Anton Kalosek of Plattsmouth took charge at Loup City. Leon Kozicka manufactured cigars at Ashton in 1910-11.

Charles Masin of Ord opened a pop factory in Loup City in July, 1911. In 1912 A. O. Lee purchased the business which he located in the basement of the present Liberty Theatre.

Ice business until 1900 was cared for by individuals, who stored ice in a cave lined with straw. C. L. Drake of the St. Elmo not only provided his own supply of ice, but also delivered some. Odendahl Bros. had an ice cave at the rear of the store.

The Conger Brothers, W. S. and James, in 1902, began on a large scale. James W. gave an account of it in the Times, Febr. 29, 1924.

Flooding the pond, near the mill race, and also cutting on the river, employed a considerable force during the winter season. One year the B&M bought several train loads, which necessitated hauling ice at night. Conger's furnished ice to Aurora, Archer, Central City, Rockville, Ashton, Comstock, Sargent, Farwell, and even some to Grand Island. In 1912 the B&M took

forty carloads. By 1927 an electric ice-cutter was used. In April, 1927, Conger's sold to James Brooks, who continued until 1930. In 1932 manufactured ice was shipped from Ord. In 1936 Edgar Foster sold from a booth located north of the library.

The Youngquist Supply Company manufactures the Turn-a-Back Rug Rack, display rack for linoleum rugs, sold in every state in the Union and in Canada.

The Depew Disc Sharpener, patented prior to 1905, by J. I. Depew, pioneer blacksmith, is still manufactured by his son-in-law, F. J. Leschinsky. This machine uses six to eight tons of pressure instead of grinding to produce an edge. Mr. Depew, with W. R. Mellor and J. W. Long, formed a company in 1906, but because another company had a similar machine, the Loup City corporation was dissolved, with Mr. Depew continuing alone. He has shipped machines to Canada and South America. He also invented a draw-blade hammer. (Times, Dec. 5, 1905).

Mr. Depew in 1895 invented a machine to tighten tire bolts, and has manufactured inventions of farmers, notably the ensilage elevator used in filling silos, invented by Frank Zwink.

Other inventions by Sherman County residents are: wire fence by G. H. Gibson, 1892; (used around the courthouse square, it failed to give universal satisfaction); Perry Reed and O. S. Mason, gasolene cookstove, (1903); wire fence-and-clothes-tightener, Carsten Truelsen, 1896 (Times, Nov. 26); ice-cutter, used by Congers, invented by K. Ladegard of Litchfield, 1909; levelling machine (1939) and corn-drying apparatus (1951), by William Couton. There are other inventions by citizens not here mentioned, for farming, especially, is an occupation which calls for resourcefulness.

12. Storm of 1896

The cyclone of June 4, 1896, is remembered by Loup City and Sherman County because of the loss of one life, that of the five-year old daughter of J. McCoy, Union Pacific section boss, and on account of the great damage to property, livestock, and crops.

Writing of it, Mrs. A. B. Outhouse said: (Unity Club Magazine, 1931):

It hailed for fifty-five minutes. My husband dragged mattresses from the bedrooms on the north so that our little girls could lie down. We held the south door. He said, "If this comes open, we're gone". After a time, we decided to go to our newly completed storm cave, where we were joined by neighbors, the Culleys.

Next morning, what a scene of devastation everywhere. The Catholic Church, north of us, had blown away, and the Baptist Church had been twisted off its foundation, then twisted back. Few windowlights in town. We heard that the church at Ashton was unroofed. McCoy's had gone to their cave, but when the irrigation ditch north of town broke, it began to fill, so they left. It is supposed that the little girl had been stunned by hail when they entered the cave, and that when the family left, they didn't notice that she was missing. When Culley's teamer decided to go to town to offer help, he put a milk-bucket over his head, as all of them had done when they came over.

When it was decided to send the St. Elmo bus to rescue families near Dead Horse, Mrs. J. T. Hale wanted to mention the Winkleman family, but in her excitement kept saying, "Go

get tiddly-winks" Some families left their homes through the second-story window.

13. Hotels of Loup City

While the loft above the store of Frank Ingram, on Dead Horse, served as the first hotel, Rosseters opened for business Sept. 1, 1873. It was located two blocks south of the courthouse square, near Dead Horse Creek. Mrs. Alice Rosseter Willard recalled that at the time of opening it had neither doors windows, nor staircase, but had as its first guest, the well-known scout, William Wentworth, known as "Little Buckshot". When Mrs. Jos. Wharton arrived in Loup City in 1879, there were 27 men sleeping on the floor the first night there.

Rosseters ceased managing the hotel in 1897. It was bought by Mrs. Wharton, and managed as a boarding house, after extensive remodelling, until after her death. Following the death of her granddaughter, Mrs. Wm. Simpson, in 1944, it was the home of her daughter, Mrs. Katie Cassingham, and great-granddaughter, Miss Margaret Simpson, until Mrs. Cassingham's death, when it was sold to William Scharnow in 1948. Mr. Scharnow's remodelling has produced three apartments.

A store building owned by Mr. Wm. Benschoter, a part of which was used as a hotel, stood south of the courthouse. Later, as a hotel it was managed by Connor and Adams, and by Benschoters, acquiring the name Massasoit House. At times it housed county offices, then stood empty. It was finally torn down, and its lumber used to build a farm house north of Loup City.

The St. Elmo Hotel, built in 1887, because of the coming of the railroads, stood on the site now occupied by the Mason Implement Store. Its first manager and owner, C. L. Drake, and cook, Joe Church, made it one of the best in central Nebraska. The lumber, hauled from Kearney, was the last bill of lumber sold by J. B. Ford. Mrs. E. G. Kriechbaum named it, possibly taking the name from the title of a novel popular at the time Genial Joe Church, was a culinary artist who furnished recipes for the local newspapers in 1892. An Eastern Star Banquet Menu of June 1893, proves his ability:

Cold Roast Ham,	Cold Roast Beef,	Cold Roast Chicken,
White Bread	Brown Bread	French Rolls
Lobster Salad	Salmon Salad	String Bean Salad
White Cake,	Layer Cake,	Jelly Cake,
	Cocoanut Cake,	Ribbon Cake,
	Sponge Cake	
Orange Custard,	Charlotte Russe,	Hamburg Cream,
Vanilla Ice Cream,	Strawberries in	Whipped Cream,
Oranges,	Layer Raisins,	Mixed Nuts,
	Brandy Jelly,	Compote of Fruits
Tea	Coffee	Chocolate
		Lemonade

The attention paid by the Drakes to their guests is evidenced by the printed menu of a Christmas dinner, 1888. On the back of the folder is the statement, "Nothing is too good for Our Boys", with the names of permanent guests. Among them is the name of Mr. Henry Jenner, who celebrated his 92nd birthday, March 17, 1952.

The bus of the hotel, a spring wagon covered with canvas, and two long seats inside, met all passenger trains, and called for and delivered passengers. Following Mr. Drake, who left Loup City in 1899, landlords were Anton Erazim, Rufus Wilson, Jack Harper, C. E. Lundy, and Ernest Milburn. Mrs. Viola Odendahl, daughter of pioneer hotel-keeper C. E. Rosseter, built

the Frederick, a two-story brick hotel, east of the St. Elmo in 1913.

The Frederick, named for her eldest son, Frederick, was managed by Mrs. Odendahl until 1936. Subsequent managers have been her younger son, Wm. J. Odendahl, Mrs. Vera McCoy, Earle Green, and Ross Taggart.

14. Convention Year

The year 1925 is remembered as Loup City's Convention Year. The district meeting of the Rebekah Lodge was held April 22, 1925; Sixth District Convention of the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs May 11, 12; State Convention of Nebraska P.E.O.'s, May 19, 20; Baptist Church Convention, June 2, 3, 4; the Loup Valley Press Association, June 19; picnic of the Polish-American Alliance, August 9, 1925. Jenner's Park afforded one of the chief entertainment features for these State organizations.

15. The Grasshopper Siege

Mr. Benschoter (Book of Facts, 38-50) describes the visit of the grasshoppers in 1874. They reached Sherman County, in August, consuming gardens and corn patches, which were to have taken the settlers through the winter. Smudges only moved them from one part of a field to another. An acre of sweet corn and garden truck on the block south of the courthouse was swept by citizens with brooms, willow brushes and with smudges. This only caused them to fly against the attackers with such force as to almost blind them. Within two hours the corn was gone and the hoppers were standing on their heads burrowing into the ground after onions, beets and turnips. They remained two or three days, eating grass and the foliage of trees.

They returned in 1876. This time a Loup City citizen tried covering plants with a sheet, which was full of holes in a few moments. The insects ate paint. In '77 and '78 Mr. Benschoter says they passed over the county in great clouds, but did not alight. A small red insect was found beneath the wings of those which dropped to the ground, an enemy which destroyed the pests.

In the '30's the use of poison bran, distributed through government agencies, mitigated the attacks of the grasshoppers. One day in June of '37 they flew low enough over Loup City to strike some luckless pedestrians in the face, temporarily blinding them. A strip along the edge of the fields would be taken, but the remainder of the field escaped.

16. Re-Survey of Sherman County Boundary Line, 1893

Cultivation of land and road building in time destroyed corner marks of the government survey. In 1893, Sherman and Howard Counties made arrangements to redetermine the survey. Each county furnished its certified field notes of the original survey. Robert Harvey of St. Paul, who had been with government surveyors in the '60's, was in charge.

The taking of testimony from settlers was an important part of the proceedings. Walter Moon of Sherman County was chairman; R. Wilcox, Howard County surveyor, secretary, and J. Bennett head flagman, with F. G. Neighbors and Marion S. Adams cornermen.

The testimony of witnesses was interesting because of the light it threw on pioneer conditions.

George S. Tockey of Ashton stated that he had seen certain corners between 1874 and 1880; he had lived in Howard County until 1887. John Deminski of Elba had seen corners in 1882, when he, with Valentine Wagner, was ploughing with oxen. Dora Tockey had seen a certain corner-stake in 1877, while picking grapes and herding cattle. She had tied her horse to a chance picket stake, which her father, Christian Tockey, had told her was a government corner-stake. John Barzynski and Pete Jensen showed where they (thought) saw stakes in 1874; Rosalie Wagner, who had led oxen for ploughing, showed the location where she had noticed a stake.

The survey committee worked from July 6 to August 3, 1893. Jonathan L. Peden, Sidney Wox, and John Heil were chainmen; Jay Bennett, Francis G. Nightingale, and Marion S. Adams, flagmen from Sherman County. Harvey was generally able to find some trace of the original corner; a new 30-inch pit was dug, filled with one and two-pound cans of lime, with flinty rocks on the cans. Special emphasis was laid on not disturbing these marks. (Howard County Field Notes, courtesy Howard County Clerk, April 4, 1950).

The Middle Loup River, since homesteaders came, has often altered boundaries. Farmers on one side, when they noticed the channel cutting at the banks, planted willows to hold the soil thus transferred. One example of the destruction caused by the river was the discovery that a parcel of land, described in the government survey as consisting of 40 acres, had been reduced to a mere seven acres when it was entered by Sherman Houderscheldt in 1907.

17. Sherman County's Farm

The "poor farm", given to the county by the B & M Railroad when the tax controversy was settled in 1878, the E½ of 35-15-16, was always rented. The first tenant, Jacob Albers, is said to have cared for a few needing assistance, but that is the only time it occurred. Rent was usually cash. Mr. Albers made the first improvements. The brick residence was built in 1903. The east half of this 320-acre farm was sold to the federal government in 1933, for \$2,042.00, to be used for the subsistence farmstead project. The land was sold May 16, 1944, when the project was abandoned, to Leo Augustyn, for \$20,000.00 (Deed Rec. 45, 499; 48, 388). This purchase included two complete sets of the improvements. Two of the houses were moved together to make one large one. (Leo Augustyn, Mch. 22, 1952). Lessees of the county farm have been:

Jacob Albers, 1885-1892; C. J. Tracy, 1892-1906; Ira Timson, 1906-09; William George, 1909-1912; Henry Beccard, 1912-15; W. H. Watts, 1915-1920; Alex. J. Badura, 1920-21; Wm. George, 1922-31; Don Youngquist, 1932-34; Vernon S. Adams, 1934-44; Don Badura, 1945-48; Fritz Obermiller, 1948. The county farm now

consists of a quarter instead of a half-section, since 1944. It lies under the Middle Loup Irrigation Project.

18. Teacher Institutes

Teachers' institutes in early years were a substitute for advanced training later given in summer schools or high schools. In 1892 the superintendents of Sherman and Valley Counties held a joint institute, one week in each county. Instructors taught what were regarded as basic facts. One Sherman County teacher for several years was called upon to "trace the circulation of the blood", because she was "letter perfect".

But the institutes were also social events. Editors referred to the "pretty school ma'ams". Dances and ice-cream socials were scheduled for the time institute was in session. Special programs, including musical numbers furnished by local talent, were given, and the instructors gave special evening lectures to which townspeople were invited.

An institute of the early nineties was photographed in front of the lower grade building, now the residence of Mrs. Cora Hancock. Over half the teachers were men. A difference of opinion arose among the ladies as to whether or not hats should be worn. Miss Ella Long insisted upon wearing her hat and holding her gloves. Mrs. J. W. Jones held her hat. The others appear hatless. But the front row of men also held their hats, gallantly upholding the proprieties. (Picture in collection of Mrs. J. P. Leininger, Sr.)

19. Literary Talent

Every community makes some boast of literary talent, and Sherman County is no exception. Mrs. H. M. Mathew, wife of the English attorney, H. M. Mathew, wrote short stories for youth magazines, such as the *Youth's Companion* and the *Advocate*. One especially liked by young people was "Billy's Graduation". She discontinued writing because her husband felt it took too much of her time. It was her suggestion that led to the *Woman's Unity Club Magazine* of 1931-'32.

Calla Cole Petersen, granddaughter of pioneer Lewis Williams, wrote poetry which caused her to be elected president of the Nebraska group, *Ars Poetica*, in 1925. Kathy Kettle, of 7019 No. 24th Street, Omaha, is the Ashton born grand-daughter of I. M. Polski, pioneer Polish homesteader, and Stephen Kettle, of Irish extraction, who has been a contributor to the *Poet's Corner* of the *Sunday World Herald Magazine*. Nellie Janulewicz Woznick, daughter of Matt. Janulewicz, pioneer Russian-born Pole, has also had poetry contributions in the *World Herald*.

Miss Ella R. Long and her ~~granddaughter~~^{niece} Margaret Long, (Mrs. C. Foster) wrote for trade and travel magazines.

Edmund C. Jaeger, son of pioneer merchant J. Phil. Jaeger, became a teacher of natural science in Occidental College, Riverside, California. His study of plant and animal life in the deserts has resulted in the publication of eight scientific books, of which one, *Denizens of the Desert*, is in the Loup City Township Library.

Jean Owen Giovannoni, granddaughter of A. L. Zimmerman, has become a writer of fiction. She now lives in California, where she writes for *Good Housekeeping*, *Ladies Home Journal* and similar magazines.

Alice Ann Conger (Knisely) and Helen Elsner (Zwink), native Loup Cityites, and one-time teachers, have had poems and articles published in college and teachers' magazines.

Sherman County citizens who may happen to own a Bent Piano, manufactured by the Geo. P. Bent Piano Company of Chicago, Illinois, may not know that the piano manufacturer is the son of a pioneer resident, George P. Bent, who was a member of the Board of Supervisors, 1889-1893.

Sherman County readers take more than passing interest in the columnists Blanche Spann Pease (Omaha Sunday World Herald), whose parents were married at Loup City, and Mrs. Kenneth McDonald of Boelus (Times), whose husband is a Sherman County native.

A Mallory hat reminds old-timers that George Mallory, who assisted county surveyor Raymond with the survey of Rockville, married Mattie Raymond, a daughter. The couple afterwards returned to Danbury, Connecticut, where the hat factory is located.

20. Loup City's First Circus

Mrs. Minnie Wall Johansen who came to Loup City in 1877, wrote (March 4, 1948), of the first circus to visit Loup City:

"Pullman and Mack's Company-Mastadon Show-Eight United Shows", it was billed. The elephant was to head the big parade at 1 p.m., but was not with them upon arrival. It had broken loose during the night, and was found later in a cornfield near North Loup. It finally reached Loup City, and the opening took place. It was a gala day for Loup City. (Notes from Minnie Wall's Diary, 1884).

21. Cornhusking Contests

A cornhusking contest was held on Clear Creek, Nov. 24, 1910. Results were: Lyman Craig, 106 bushels; Seth Richmond, 106 bushels; Guy Richmond, 110 bushels. The time was nine hours, fifteen minutes. (Monitor, Dec. 2, 1910).

In the '30's, cornhusking contests were attended with much publicity. In 1931, the contest was held on Krichau farm two miles south of Loup City. In 1935, on the Milo Gilbert farm, Tom Oseka was Sherman County winner, who placed fourth in the state contest. Mike Stopak was winner in 1937 on the George Kisling farm, and H. Waskowiak winner in 1938 on the Otto Petersen farm near Rockville. (Times, passim).

22. Sherman County's Military Record

Sherman County had many Civil War veterans among its earliest settlers. Some ninety became members of the local Grand Army of the Republic Post at Loup City.

The membership list of the Shiloh Post No. 124 is in the hands of Mrs. Nettie Conger Steen. It gives the military record of each

member, with mention of their disability, "one arm gone", "crippled foot," "crippled hand". This list, with those of the Sons of Veterans, shows the part Civil War veterans played in early Sherman County history. "Col." J. M. Young, of the Confederate Army, was custodian of the grade school for a number of years. Small pupils could never understand why he did not march with the G. A. R. in parades.

The militia organized in 1874 has been mentioned (Chap. I). At the time of the Spanish-American War six from Loup City enlisted, Ashley Conger, Simpson Criss, Anton Gzehoviak, Matt Jarenka, E. T. Beushuesen, Lars P. Nelson. When Ashley Conger went to Blair, Nebraska to report on the death of a "buddy", he met a sister, Belle Long, who became Mrs. Ashley Conger. Arthur Inks, a former Loup Cityite, enlisted at Kearney, and wrote letters which were published in Sherman County newspapers. (List, Ashley Conger).

The list of those who enlisted in World War I may be seen in the Sherman County Atlas published by C. F. Beusheusen and F. A. Hartman (1924). The town of Ashton was outstanding because of the number of voluntary enlistments. It was said this was due to the fact that the parents of many had come from German Poland, and felt there was a personal score to be settled for oppression endured before migrating to America.

Rockville has the list of her soldiers on the Roll of Honor in the park. When Don Badura made his survey of cemeteries (Times, May 26, 1949) he listed all known graves of soldiers.

Sherman County's military record is outstanding in that there has been but one evader of the draft. C. W. Trumble and Hiyo Aden as draft board members both received trips to Washington, D. C., in recognition of their services. Mr. Aden states that he has never received a complaint concerning his action as a member of the draft board. In the present (Korean War) war, Sherman County has this far sent 124 soldiers, 68 inducted and 56 enlisted, according to Mrs. Victoria Brown, clerk of the board, Hiyo Aden of Hazard and Karl Pecht and C. F. Beusheusen of Loup City, which has served since the summer of '48.

In the center of Evergreen Cemetery stands a shaft, with a bronze eagle atop, placed in 1917, through the efforts of C. F. Beusheusen, who raised funds by popular subscription. It replaces an earlier wooden shaft, dedicated to the "Unknown Dead", which had been placed by Shiloh Circle No. 5, and Shiloh Post No. 124, Grand Army of the Republic. Here memorial services are held each May 30.

23. Loup City Business Firms, 1951-52

Dr. Kazas Alminas, veterinarian; Bartunek's Cafe; Bartunek's Shoe Shop; Bill's Shoe Shop; Bennie's Food Market; Ben's Service Station; Best Garage; Brown Grain Co.; Bukowski Heating and Plumbing; Button Chevrolet Co.

Central Filling Station; City Cafe; City Meat Market (IGA); City Fire Department; Coast-to-Coast Store; Co-op Creamery; Co-op Service Station; Cook Implement Co., (Allis Chalmers); Consumer's Public Power Co.; C, B & Q Railroad; Castile Dry

Cleaning; Depew Disc Sharpener; Dinsdale's Ice Cream Parlor; Doc's Cleaners; Elsner's Filling Station; Elsner's Jewelry & Gifts.

Fairmont Foods, First National Bank; Foley Liquor Store; Frederick Hotel & Cafe; Frank's Radio Service; Ford Sales & Service (Umshler Motor Service); Gamble Store (Art Erdman); E. W. Gill, veterinarian; George's Service Station; Gdanitz Variety Store; Harry's Tavern; Helen's Dress Shop; H&L Supply (John Deere Implement); Ideal Cafe; International Harvester Co.; Iowa-Nebraska Natural Gas Co.; Jack & Jill (groc.); Jacob's Garage; Jack's Produce; John's Cafe; J & L Cafe; Keystone Lbr. Co.; P. J. Kowalski Supply & Produce Co.

Lewandowski's (Golden Rule) Lewis Barber Shop; Liberty Theatre; Lorentz Clothing (Men & Boys); Lonowski Garage; Loup City Clinic; Loup City Commission Co.; Loup City Farm Implement Co.; Loup City Hatchery; Loup City Funeral Home (R. Badura); Loup City Furniture Co.; Loup City Township Library; Loup City Hardware Co.; W. H. Line, law; Loup Valley Transfer; O. S. Mason & Son, (Hdwre & Machinery, Plumbing & Heating); Dr. C. L. Mohr, dentist; R. H. Mathew, law & abstracts; C. W. McKinney, studio; E. W. Moehnert, law; McCormick Deering Co.; Northwestern Bell Telephone Co.; Patterson's Plumbing; Phillips 66; Pierce Super Service.

Ray's Market (groc.); Redfern's Popcorn Stand; Rexall Drug Co.; Ruby's Cafe; Sacred Heart Hospital Co.; Sally's Beauty Shop; Schoening's Garage; Sherman's Barber Shop; Sherman Co. Times; Siebler Garage; Dr. R. L. Skelnar (Dentist); Smedra Bros., Service Station; Smart Shoppe (Amelia Lewandowski); Spelts Lbr. Co.; Stephens Law Office; Swanson Drug Store (Nyal); Tesmer Electric Shop; Twinette Beauty Shop; Union Pacific R. R. Warrick's (Mdse.); Whitehead Agency (real estate); Wichman's Dance Pavilion; Woznick Implement Co. (Minneapolis Moline); Youngquist Supply Co.

CHAPTER XIX

SHERMAN COUNTY'S SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, JULY 4, 5, 1948

The writer of this history, noting that the county would be 75 years old on April 1, 1948, contacted old-timers, Mayor I. A. Gdanitz, County Superintendent Fred M. Pokorny, and the Times, regarding a suitable celebration. All expressed approval. At a meeting at the court room on Jan. 27, 1948, L. L. Stephens, R. H. Mathew, R. Jenner, W. S. Waite, R. L. Young, Ashley Conger, Wm. Wharton, Carl Spelts, Chris Hansen, and others made suggestions. Mrs. Park Paige and Miss Meroe J. Outhouse were chosen as co-chairmen.

Since April weather is unpredictable, and because the Fourth of July celebration was a feature of pioneer life, it was decided to observe two days, July 4 and 5. Old-time games and contests, skits on Sherman County history, a ball game, with the main address to be given by the Rev. R. V. Kearns, son of pioneer physician A. J. Kearns, were scheduled for Monday. A union church service was to be held on Sunday. Neighboring towns were invited to join. The Chamber of Commerce, through its secretary, promised financial assistance.

Store windows filled with pictures, costumes, and historical mementoes were in readiness the week preceding the celebration. At the union church service, L. C. high school, former residents, the Rev. A. J. Kearns of Huron, S. D., pronounced the invocation and led in responsive reading; the Rev. Loren Pugsley of Enid, Oklahoma, gave the benediction, while Russel Grow, dean of Southwestern College, Kansas, gave the main address. Floral decorations were furnished by Mrs. Clarence Ryan, Mrs. O. H. Lilley, Mrs. Paul Reiche.

Nebraska weather cooperated by furnishing two sunny, quiet, although hot July days. Monday morning's parade, with at least fifty floats, was a highlight. Following the combined Loup City and Rockville bands came the replica of the old Sherman County courthouse, with outside staircase, whose construction was supervised by Robert Young. This building was later auctioned by E. A. Keeler, being sold to Leonard Rademacher for \$150.00. Riding in the replica of the First M. E. Church was C. J. Tracy, who had worked on the original building in 1883. An Indian pole-carrier, covered wagon, prospector with burro, the Grant Rogers' in old-fashioned single buggy, the Daddow float, with the inscription, "In 1880 Joseph Daddow came here; we have come since", the medicine wagon of District No. 47; Swanson's drugstore fountain of 1908; Helen's Dress Shop, with old and modern wedding dresses were among the entries. St. Josephat's float, and that of Miss Amelia Lewandowski's Smart Shoppe, emphasized national origins. Ninety-nine year old Mrs. Ellen Engleman of Litchfield was cheered as she rode in a new automobile. (Mr. R. B. Chudzinski of Ashton, the same age, had been unable to come). The Loup City, Litchfield, Ravenna Saddle Clubs, as well as the Ravenna Band, added variety.

Many heard the list of old-timers present, read by Miss Mina Schumann, followed by the main address of the day by R. V. Kearns. R. H. Mathew acted as master of ceremonies; Mayor A. H. Brown of Loup City, and chairman of the county board of supervisors, A. E. Barnett, welcomed the guests.

Afternoon entertainment at the courthouse grounds consisted of a series of old-time and modern contests, directed by Coach Harold Maciejewski and old-timer Robert Young. Two skits, "Arrival of the Relief Box in Sherman County", supervised by Miss Mina Schumann, and the Wiggle Creek Square Dancers, were presented.

On Sunday and Monday nights at the Sherman County Fair grounds the historical pageant, "Cavalcade", Sherman County in Review, in twelve scenes depicted the history of the region from the time of the Indians to 1948. Directed by Lawrence Wehrman and V. E. Skipton, this spectacle had been featured at Kearney's Diamond Anniversary Celebration June 10-13, 1948. Miss Mina Schumann had charge of securing talent; Mrs. Arline Clark supervised the sale of Diamond Jubilee Buttons which brought financial assistance. Harry Lewandowski, P. J. Kowalski, Robert Bell, Don Youngquist, and Mrs. Harold Obermiller aided in securing costumes and properties, singers, riders and vehicles for Cavalcade.

Litchfield furnished the following talent: Sunday night, R. V.

Stephens, Ross Kieborz, W. G. Hohfeld, Floyd Cornford, Paul Givens, Cecil Elrod, Orvel and Dick Ferguson, with Ross Douglas and Paul Chipps as members of the male quartet, "The Twelve O'clock Four"; on Monday, in the "Gay Nineties", Mrs. Rollie Amsberry, Litchfield Saddle Club, W. G. Hohfeld, Delbert Burton, Ernest Nelson, Rollie and Jimmie Amsberry, Robert Mitchell, Dale Biedorff; in the "Midnight Fire Scene", Donald Hohfeld took the part of Ross Douglas' wife; while Chipps and Douglas sang in "The Midnight Four".

Arcadia, just across the line in Valley County, sent Mr. and Mrs. Childs Gallaway, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Gogan, Mrs. Grace Webb, Harold Bulger, Mrs. Elbert Thomas, Robert Brown, Joe Lee, with Kermit Ericksen singing "Knight of the Plains", and Rae Jean Gogan singing "Melancholy Baby". Arnold Tuning was responsible for the Arcadia Ensemble.

Rockville's participation was evident with the Rasmussen Orchestra playing for the pavement dance, furnishing their own loud speaker. The Rockville Band united with the Loup City Band in the parade.

Mrs. Elvin Rademacher and her group of Virginia Reel Dancers (juveniles), made three appearances in the two days, since they appeared in the parade and in Cavalcade. Participants were:

Robert Rademacher, caller; dancers, Earl Rademacher, Carolyn Techmeier, Eldon Wilkie, Shirley Isbrantson, Marion and Paul Sokol, Betty and Ethadine Grudzinski, Allen Kuhl; musicians, Mrs. Frank Janda, piano, and Melvin Sickels, violin.

The historical pageant "Cavalcade-Sherman County in Review" **Janda**, divided into the twelve scenes, included Coronado and the Spanish Conquistadors, the pioneer town, with cowboys, stage coaches and comedy; the "Gay Nineties", performed before the 200-foot set. A Hammond Organ furnished the musical background. About one hundred fifty people took part, and fifty riders. Phyllis Oltman and Melvin Lonowski rode a tandem bicycle; Dr. Amick loaned a carriage and horses, and rode in the parade with the Loup City Saddle Club. Mrs. Harold Obermiller of the Loup City Saddle Club arranged for riders and mounts.

Committees in charge of the various phases of the celebration were:

Parade, Ray Pinckney, Wm. Vodendahl, Philip Janulewicz, Alonzo Paige, Karl Pecht, Ethel Maciejewski; banner, Fred Sherman, Pete Kowalski, Mrs. Guilford, Sr., Amelia Lewandowski, Mina Schumann; seats, A. R. Outhouse, Carl Spelts; refreshments, Steve Makowski, Don Badura; transportation of old-timers, Clark Reynolds, Minor Steele; ball game, Stanly Roy; ticket sellers, Frank Ryan, Carl Spelts; pavement dance, John Parks; Loup City fire department, in charge at fair grounds for the performance of Cavalcade; identification of sites and pictures, Fred Odendahl; typing, Misses Retta Gasteyer, Ann Van, Mrs. Charlotte Moore; signs, Gzehoviak brothers, "Welcome, Old Settlers", Harry Lewandowski

Mrs. A. H. Elsner and Miss Marion Elsner were busy Monday handling registration of old-timers, and enabling them to meet each other. The refreshment stands of the Boy Scouts and Catholic ladies east of the courthouse were an added convenience to the crowd. The Sherman County Times brought out a special edition, with the emblem used on the badges and pins, on the masthead, on July 1. Several

issues before and after the special edition were filled with pictures, letters and articles of historical interest.

In the words of the Times editors: Sherman County looked back on a successful Diamond Jubilee celebration that brought hundreds of visitors to Loup City.

(Times, July 1, June 24, July 8, 15, 22, 1948).

CHAPTER XX

COUNTY OFFICIALS — POPULATION STATISTICS

SHERMAN COUNTY TREASURERS

1873, C. E. Rosseter (John Harkins apptd. July 21, qualifies Aug. 2, 1873); 1874, C. E. Rosseter; 1875, Alfred Brown apptd. Febr. 19); 1878, Charles A. Hale; 1882, W. A. Wilson (resigns July 22, 1885, C. E. Achenbach apptd.); 1886, James K. Pearson (A. J. C. Fairburn apptd. Febr. 5, 1889); 1890, D. A. Jackson; 1894, I. M. Polski; 1898, F. X. Badura; 1902, S. N. Sweetland; 1906, R. M. Hiddleson; 1910, O. F. Peterson; 1912, F. M. Henry 1915, D. C. Grow; 1921, F. A. Grow; 1927, John Minshull 1931, F. A. Grow; 1951, Norbert F. Kalkowski (apptd. Jan. 1951).

SHERMAN COUNTY CLERKS

1873, William Walt (res. Aug. 2, 1873), Frank Ingram, (res. Dec. 6, 1873); 1874, E. J. Atkinson (res. Oct. 27, 1874), O. B. Willard (res. Aug. 3, 1875); A. B. Tutton; 1876, A. B. Tutton; 1878, D. D. Grow; 1882, Robert Taylor; 1886, W. H. Morris 1892, E. H. Kittell; 1894, Louis Rein; 1898, John Minshull; 1902, George H. Gibson; 1906, C. F. Beusheusen 1910, W. C. Dieterichs; 1914, L. B. Polski; 1921, Ronald F. Rowe; 1935, L. G. Lofholm; 1945, Margaret Simpson, (apptd. Dec. 15, 1945).

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT

According to Nebraska law, a county must have a population of 8,000 or more before it is entitled to an office of clerk of the district court. Sherman County qualified for this office in July, 1910.

Louis Rein, apptd. July 12, 1910; 1915, Charles Bass; 1921, F. M. Henry; 1935, Kathryn Ling. (Office discontinued due to decline in population, in 1937.)

SHERMAN COUNTY SHERIFFS

1873, M. A. Hartley; 1875, res. March 15, 1876, Rufus J. Brown; 1878, Rufus J. Brown; 1879, John L. Hawk; 1882, Charles Riedel (res. Jan. 1882,) Chas. E. Waite apptd. (d. Jan. 2, 1883), F. W. Saltus; 1884, F. W. Saltus; 1886, J. S. Pedler; 1890, Thomas Inks; 1892, R. D. Hendrickson; 1896, Hugh S. Patton; 1900, E. A. Snyder; 1904, L. A. Williams; 1923, J. Thrailkill; 1935, Earl S. Hancock.

SHERMAN COUNTY JUDGE

1873, R. W. Russell (res. Apr. 1, 1874, Frank Ingram; 1875, Frank Ingram, (res. Jan. 6, 1875); Walter Moon, (apptd. Jan. 26, 1875); 1876, H. A. Gladding; 1878, Aaron Wall; 1882, G. W. Hunter; 1886, Walter Moon; 1896, David Kay; 1900, J. A. Angier (res. Dec. 6, 1908,) J. S. Pedler 1910, E. A. Smith (d. Apr. 24, 1923) L. L. Stephens; 1912, L. L. Stephens; 1929, E. W. Moehnert; 1951, Ira Daddow (apptd. May 3, 1951).

SHERMAN COUNTY CORONER

1873, Peter Keitges; 1874, H. A. Gladding; 1875, O. S. Brown; 1878, D. Reynolds; 1882, John Nieman; 1884, Dr. G. W. Kittell; 1892, A. Watkinson; 1898, Dr. J. W. Jones; 1902, G. W. Hunter; 1904, Frank Brewer; 1906, Dr. A. S. Main.

SHERMAN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1873, Thos. N. Johnson (Nov. 1, 1873, J. Wesley Eddy), 1874, J. Wesley Eddy (resigns Oct. 17, 1874, H. A. Gladding apptd.), 1874, H. A. Gladding; 1880, M. H. Mead; 1882, R. C. Hardin; 1884, M. H. Mead; 1886, S. S. Penepacker; 1888, H. L. Burns; 1890, Mrs. Laura E. Walworth; 1894, C. F. Johnson; 1898, G. S. Leininger. 1904, R. D. Hendrickson; 1912, L. H. Currier; 1923, R. D. Hendrickson; 1935, Stanly F. Roy (res. Apr. 1, 1943), 1943, Miss Evangeline Waite (res. Sept. 1946); 1946, Fred M. Pokorny (apptd. Sept. 14, 1946); Mrs. Ruth M. Long, (apptd. Apr. 7, 1948, following resignation of Mr. Pokorny.)

*m. J. Mead
1906-08;
R. D. H. 08-
12;*

SHERMAN COUNTY SURVEYOR

1873, George Hayes, H. W. Humes apptd. Oct. 22, 1873; 1874, H. W. Humes; 1876, Levi G. Pierce (apptd. Nov. 17, 1876); 1880, M. A. Hartley (res. Nov. 21, 1882); 1882, M. H. Mead; 1884, G. M. Raymond; 1893, Walter Moon; 1894, E. B. Corning; 1935, Leo P. Berzina (res. Oct. 3, 1938); 1938, Stanley Moritz.

SHERMAN COUNTY ATTORNEY

At first, a district attorney was named to look after the affairs of the county. Later, each county had its attorney, appointed by the county board until 1906, after which they were elected.

1880, Aaron Wall; 1882, T. S. Nightingale; 1886, C. H. E. Heath; 1888, Joel R. Scott; 1890, Emerson A. Smith; 1891, Joel R. Scott 1893, Emerson A. Smith; 1895, John W. Long; 1899, T. S. Nightingale; 1902, J. S. Pedler; 1906, R. H. Mathew; 1908, R. P. Starr; 1914, J. S. Pedler; 1915, L. L. Stephens; 1923, W. H. Line.

SHERMAN COUNTY ASSESSOR

1873, Alfred Brown, (apptd. June 28, 1873); after this the work was done by the county clerk with aids; 1904, Lawrence Peters; 1915, W. T. Owens; 1919, O. F. Peterson; 1921, C. C. Cooper; 1924, Andrew G. Johnson; 1931, W. H. Simpson (office discontinued in 1935, due to depression); 1950, A. E. Chase.

The Commissioner type of county government existed from 1873 until 1887, when it was supplanted by the Supervisor system. As the county increased in population, the number of precincts, or voting districts increased (see maps, pp. 223-225) until there were thirteen. By state law, in 1895, the number was reduced to seven.

In this legislative body of the county, there were frequent resignations, which makes the compilation of an accurate list difficult.

Commissioners:

1873: M. W. Benschoter, ch., Edward Nielsen, Martin Coleman. (MWB resigned Jan. 6, 1874).

1874: Robert Russell, John R. Baker, John W. Harkins (Russell resigns, Smith Mathews in his place).

1875: Samuel Hancock, Smith Matthews, Thos. N. Johnson April 19, Smith Mathews, resigns, replaced by Wm. Baillie.

1876: Samuel Hancock, William Baillie, Jonathan Arthaud.

1877: Same.

- 1879: Wm. Baillie, N. B. Thompson, Peter Truelsen.
1880: N. B. Thompson, Peter Truelsen, Fred Stine.
1881: Peter Truelsen, Samuel Hancock, C. Arthaud.
1882: J. L. Goff, S. Hancock, Noah Vanscoy.
1883: S. Hancock, J. L. Goff, D. L. Fair (Smelser resigns, Oct., 1883, D. L. Fair appointed).
1884: J. L. Goff, D. L. Fair, John Hogue.
1885: J. L. Goff, D. L. Fair, John Hogue.
1886: John Hogue, J. Goff, Geo. Scott.
1887: John L. Goff, Geo. H. Scott, E. C. Gallaway.
1887: Supervisors from townships: Thos. C. Duncanson, ch., Howard W. Lang, Seth Slawson, Alex. H. Gray, Leo Klein, Wm. Jeffrey, Fred Stine (Refused to serve from Hayestown).
1889: S. H. Slawson, ch.; U. D. Powell, M. Rewolinski, W. T. Gibson, John Parle, C. J. Tracy, J. R. Davidson, Geo. Bent, John Eggers, (repl. by W. H. Brown), Wm. Jeffreys, H. W. Lang.
1890: W. H. Slawson, ch.; S. S. Reynolds, W. T. Gibson, H. W. Lang, J. C. Fletcher, Geo. Bent, S. S. Reynolds, Wm. Jeffries, W. H. Brown, W. H. Brown, A. H. Gray.
1894: J. W. Heapy, ch.; W. T. Gibson, E. H. Kittell, F. H. Kangsen, S. N. Sweetland, Peter McKeown, J. Q. Pray, A. Minshull, J. P. Leininger, Geo. Newberg, M. Rewolinski, Lorin Crawford, John Wasielowski.
1895: August 15, choose for districts by lot:
John Wasielowski, J. Q. Pray, F. H. Kangsan, W. T. Gibson; E. H. Kittell, Peter McKeown, A. Minshull.
1896: J. P. Leininger, ch., F. Badura, Henry Beck, Lewis Bechthold, Henry Dunker, Peter McKeown, J. W. Barnes.
1897: J. P. Leininger, ch.; M. Rewolinski, S. N. Sweetland, Lewis Bechthold, Henry Dunker, Peter McKeown, J. W. Barnes.
1898: Henry Dunker, ch.; M. Rewolinski, S. N. Sweetland, Lewis Bechthold, J. R. Barnes, J. P. Leininger, Peter McKeown.
1899: S. N. Sweetland, ch.; O. L. Way, Lewis Bechthold, J. P. Leininger, W. C. Dieterichs, Peter McKeown, Albert Dickerson.
1900: S. N. Sweetland, chm.; John Jens (res. Nov. 21, 1900, Peter Thode apptd.), Lewis Bechthold, W. C. Dieterichs, O. L. Way, John Boecking, Albert Dickerson.
1901: W. C. Dieterichs, chm.; Peter Thode, Anton Kwiatkowski, D. H. Richardson, J. F. Roberts, John Boecking, Peter Thode.
1902: W. C. Dieterichs, chm.; J. F. Roberts, D. C. Grow, Wm. Jacobs, Peter Thode, Anton Kwiatkowski, D. H. Richardson.
1903: D. C. Grow, chm.; Wm. Jacobs, Andrew Gartska, W. H. Chapman, Peter Thode, John Maiefski, W. O. Rown.
1904: D. C. Grow, chm.; W. O. Brown, Andrew Gartska, Peter Thode, (replaced Henry Leininger at latter's death), Goe. W. Brammer, W. H. Chapman, John Maiefski.
1905: D. C. Grow, chm.; Henning Claussen, R. M. Hiddleston, W. O. Brown, Ferdinand Schroll, W. H. Chapman, Geo. Brammer.
1906: D. C. Grow, chm., Henning Claussen, John Boecking, Chris Nielsen, W. H. Chapman, Ferd. Schroll, R. M. Hiddleston.

1907: D. C. Grow, chm.; A. Gartska, Henning Claussen, W. O. Brown, Chris Nielsen, John Boecking, F. R. Whyman.

1908: Chris Nielsen, chm.; D. C. Grow, A. Gartska, Henning Claussen, W. O. Brown, F. R. Whyman, John Boecking.

1909: J. I. Depew, chm.; Wenzel Rewolinski, W. O. Brown, C. J. Peters, Wm. Jacob, E. H. Allen.

1910: J. I. Depew, chm.; Wenzel Rewolinski, C. J. Peters, W. O. Brown, J. H. Welty, Hiyo Aden, Henry Beck.

1911: J. I. Depew, chm.; Hiyo Aden, Anton Waskowiak, W. O. Brown, Thos. Jensen, J. H. Welty, Geo. V. Wolfe.

1912: J. H. Welty, chm.; Hiyo Aden, Geo. W. Wolfe, W. O. Brown, Anton Waskowiak, Thos. Jensen, Dan McDonald.

1913: J. H. Welty, chm.; W. O. Brown, Geo. W. Wolfe, A. Waskowiak, T. Jensen, Dan McDonald, Hiyo Aden.

1914: J. H. Welty, chm.; W. O. Brown, Dan McDonald, Hiyo Aden, Wenzel Rewolinski, Thos. Jensen, H. W. Lang.

1915: J. H. Welty, chm.; W. O. Brown, Dan McDonald, Hiyo Aden, Wenzel Rewolinski, Emil Kozel, F. T. Richmond.

1916: Same.

1917: W. O. Brown, chm.; F. T. Richmond, E. F. Kozel, Wenzel Rewolinski, Hans Johnson, Geo. Brammer, W. T. Gibson (d. Sept. 7, Dan McDonald appointed).

1918: Same.

1920: W. O. Brown, chm.; G. W. Brammer, F. T. Richmond, E. F. Kozel, Wenzel Rewolinski, Chas. Quartz, Wm. Hancock.

1921: H. Johansen, chm.; L. Hansen, J. F. Roberts, Chas. Quartz, E. F. Kozel, Wenzel Rewolinski, W. O. Brown (Kozel resigns Apr. 14, Chris Nielsen appointed).

1922: H. J. Johansen, chm.; Chris Nielsen, W. Rewolinski, J. F. Roberts, Chas. Quartz, L. Hansen, W. O. Brown.

1923: John F. Roberts, chm.; W. Rewolinski, Wm. Jaeschke, C. S. Morrison, C. W. Conhiser, Chas. Quartz, L. Hansen.

1924: J. F. Roberts, chm.; Chas. Quartz, W. Rewolinski, C. S. Morrison, Wm. Jaeschke, L. Hansen, C. W. Conhiser (E. W. Thompson replaced him).

1925: J. F. Roberts, chm.; W. Rewolinski, Chas. Quartz, C. S. Morrison, E. W. Thompson, Wm. Jaeschke, L. Hansen.

1926: E. W. Thompson, chm.; Steve S. Ignowski, J. E. Roush, C. H. Bacus, Chas. Quartz, Wm. Jaeschke, L. Hansen.

1927: E. W. Thompson, chm.; Steve S. Ignowski, J. E. Roush, C. H. Bacus, Chas. Quartz, Wm. Jaeschke, L. Hansen.

1928: E. W. Thompson, chm.; S. S. Ignowski, L. Hansen, H. Bacus, J. E. Roush, Chas. Quartz, Wm. Jaeschke.

1929: C. H. Bacus, chm.; Wm. Jaeschke, Chas. Quartz, R. H. Collins, L. Hansen, J. E. Roush, S. S. Ignowski.

1931: R. H. Collins, chm.; S. S. Ignowski, Don C. Holmes, Wm. Jaeschke, John F. Roberts, Chas. Quartz, L. Hansen.

1932: J. F. Roberts, chm.; S. S. Ignowski, Don C. Holmes, Wm. Jaeschke, L. Hansen (d. Aug. 9, 1932, wife replaces him), L. L. Bly, R. H. Collins.

1933: S. S. Ignowski, chm.; Don C. Holmes, J. F. Roberts, Chas. Quartz, Pete Berzina, Lloyd Bly, William Jaeschke.

1935: Pete Berzina, chm.; Barney Gappa, Chas. Quartz, William Simpson, Wm. Jaeschke, F. G. Casteel, Dee Minshull.

1937

1939: Pete Berzina, chm.; S. N. Criss, Victor Sorensen, Geo.

Wolfe, Barney Gappa, Wm. Curry, Clarence Pray.

1941

1942: Pete Berzina, chm.; Robert Lewis (replaces S. N. Criss, d.) Clarence Pray, Barney Gappa, W. M. Curry, Victor Sorensen, G. W. Wolfe.

1943: Pete Berzina, chm.; B. Gappa, L. L. Petersen, A. E. Barnett, Robert Lewis, Victor Sorensen, F. G. Casteel.

1944: Victor Sorensen, chm.; Barney Gappa, L. L. Petersen, A. E. Barnett, A. C. Ogle, Pete Berzina, F. G. Casteel.

1945: V. Sorensen, chm.; B. Gappa, Thos. Eurek, A. E. Barnett, A. C. Ogle, Albert Blaschko, F. G. Casteel.

1946: A. C. Ogle, chm.; V. Sorensen, B. Gappa, Thos. Eurek, A. E. Barnett, Albert Blaschko, F. G. Casteel.

1947: A. E. Barnett, chm.; Richard Jakubowski, Thos. Eurek, A. C. Ogle, Albert Blaschko, Arthur Strom, Lee McFadden.

1948

1949: Arthur Strom, chm.; Thos. Eurek, Clark Reynolds, A. E. Barnett, W. S. Roberts, Lee McFadden, Richard Jakubowski.

1951: Clark Reynolds, chm.; C. C. Maciejewski, A. E. Barnett, Paul Hookstra, V. Sorensen, Thos. Eurek, Ira Criffield (W. S. Roberts elected for Dist. 6, refused to qualify, Ira Criffield chosen by the Board of Supervisors).

An attempt was made in November, 1932, to return to the commissioner form of county government, rejected by a vote of 1569-1000.

Sherman County has been combined with other counties for representation in the Nebraska State Legislature. For many years it was in the 57th legislative district and the 16th senatorial district. It was usually combined with Buffalo County to the south. Therefore, when a Sherman County citizen was elected to the Nebraska State Senate, it meant a triumph for the smaller county.

Only Sherman County residents who were holders of these positions are listed in the following:

Representative: 1885, 1887, 1889, W. H. Conger, Loup City; 1889, F. W. Fuller, Paris; 1891, 1893, Albert Dickerson, Litchfield; 1895, John W. Zink, Loup City; 1897, J. M. Snyder, Verduette; 1899, 1901, John Vandegrift, Austin; 1903, E. H. Kittell, Ashton; 1905, H. Smelser, Ashton; 1907, 1909, E. A. Brown, Loup City; 1911, W. S. Waite, Loup City; 1913, 1915, 1917, C. W. Trumble, Hazard; 1919, Howard W. Lang, Litchfield; 1921, George W. Wolfe, Litchfield; 1923, C. W. Beusheusen, Loup City (D); 1925, 1927, Dr. A. S. Main, Loup City (R); 1929, 31, 33, Fred Daddow, Loup City (d. Dec. 1934, position filled by C. F. Beusheusen); 1935, C. F. Beusheusen, Loup City (D); 1937, John R. Long, Loup City (D).

Senator: 1889, W. H. Conger, Loup City; 1897, J. W. Heapy, Litchfield; 1903, 1905, Aaron Wall, Loup City (R); 1931, 1933, Dr. J. E. Bowman, Loup City (R).

Since the inauguration of the unicameral system in 1937, Sherman County is united with Buffalo to form the 34th legislative district.

Congressional representation at present places Sherman County in the 4th congressional district; the 12th judicial district; the 6th Supreme Court District.

Note on list of county officials:

Changes in election laws from time to time, plus a laxity in the form of recording, causes questions as to dates given. Some fail to

recognize that changes have occurred, and assume wrong any date not in agreement with their own idea. Some changes made in elections since 1873, the year of county organization are:

1. Office of coroner elective until 1915, when the office was abolished by the legislature. Duties were assigned to the county attorney who became ex-officio coroner, with power to delegate certain duties of the office to the sheriff, and to the county physician, if any.

2. County officers, judge, treasurer, etc. elected in the year 1879 and every 2nd year thereafter in counties not under township organization, and in counties under township organization elected to two year terms at the next general election following township organization. (Laws of Nebraska 1879 Sec. 7, p. 241).

3. In 1913 (Laws, ch. 149, Sec. 8) changes:

In each county there shall be elected in the year 1914 and every second year thereafter a county judge, sheriff, coroner, treasurer, clerk surveyor, and superintendent of public instruction. There shall also be elected at general election in 1914 in each county of 2,000 or more inhabitants a county attorney.

4. Laws of Nebraska, 1917, ch. 31, Sec. 1:

In 1918 county judges shall be elected to two-year terms but all other county officers elected for four year terms.

Status of the office of assessor is given in the table.

Information on election laws furnished by Myrtle D. Berry, Research Associate, Nebraska State Historical Society, March 14, 1952.

Sherman County Population Statistics, 1873-1950

1874	460	1900	6,550
1875	496	1910	8,278
1877	530	1920	8,277
1878	594	1930	9,122
1879	1,120	1940	7,764
1880	2,061	1950	6,683
1890	6,399		

Towns (Since 1900)

	Ashton	Litchfield	Loup City	Hazard	Rockville
1900	251	240	826	158
1910	404	403	1,128	201
1920	397	428	1,446	167	208
1930	435	404	1,446	148	241
1940	488	412	1,675	241	203

1950 Sherman County Population Estimate

by Board of Supervisors

Registered births in last five years.....	1,082
School census, children 5-21 years.....	1,801
Persons on rural tax schedules.....	2,211
Persons on town tax schedules.....	1,460
Unlisted on tax schedules but known by name....	251
Soldiers in service from county.....	81
In institutions from county.....	37

6,923

Percent of foreign-born, 1879, 21% (greatest number from Germany and Prussia).

Percent of foreign born, 1920, 16.1% (greatest number from Poland).

Number of farms: 1900, 1,055; 1910, 1,280; 1920, 1,337.

Township Population

	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
Ashton Township	635	900	890	896	857
Bristol	605	561	528	558	473
Clay	349	470	572	582	432
Elm	289	297	326	365	231
Harrison	612	883	897	902	761
Hazard	425	582	546	581	464
Logan	379	555	616	638	454
Loup City	1,169	1,640	1,958	2,054	2,235
Oak Creek	334	418	390	366	240
Rockville	810	799	872	498	704
Scott	397	401	402	426	328
Washington	349	446	430	450	328
Webster	197	376	450	406	308
	6,550	6,278	8,877	9,122	7,764

1. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AIDS AND MAPS

a. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AIDS

Publications of the Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.

b. MAPS AND PLATS

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Map of Sherman County drawn by M. H. Mead, 1884.

Statistical Atlas of Sherman County, Nebraska, including plat book of villages, cities and towns. 34 Van Buren St., Chicago, Ill., 1904. Copy owned by Mrs. Mattie Sickels.

Sherman County Maps in office of county surveyor Stanley Moritz. Great disadvantage is that maps are largely undated.

Sherman County School Districts. In office of county superintendent Mrs. Ruth M. Long.

2. SOURCE MATERIALS

a. MANUSCRIPT SOURCES

County records, as given in text. Some omissions; material sometimes difficult to handle.

United States Land Office Records, Vols. 116, 117, 118, Sherman County. Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln.

Original government entry books.

b. NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

Ashton Herald, 1915-34. Almost complete files at State Historical Society.

Litchfield Monitor, fairly complete, 1895-1941. N.S.H.S.

Sherman County Times, later Times-Independent, then Times.

Files from 1886 in office at Loup City. From 1895 at Lincoln.

Scattered copies before 1887. Incomplete.

Northwestern. Files at Times office and at Lincoln. Early years missing.

Nebraska Record, Vol. I, Nos. 1-12; Vol. II, Nos. 13-16.

Private collection of Mrs. J. P. Leininger, Sr., and Mrs. A. B. Outhouse.

Standard Gauge, 1906-11.

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c. OTHER NEWSPAPERS

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3. SECONDARY MATERIALS

a. BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

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Rosicky, Rose. A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska. Czech Historical Society of Omaha, 1929.

Sheldon, History and Stories of Nebraska, 1914. University Publishing Co.

No attempt is made to list the interviews and letters, since they are generally given with dates in the narrative. The legal method of citing the reference immediately after the statement is used because of the skepticism of the local reader, who knows another version. Every attempt was made to secure accuracy, with the usual failures. Allowance must be made in newspaper materials for bias or misprints.

Maps showing township development, and roads, drawn by my niece, Shirley Jane Owens.

School district map, courtesy of County Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Ruth *McFadden Long*.



